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## 8 Golani soldiers injured in Hizbullah attack

DAVID RUDGE

EIGHT Golani Brigade soldiers were wounded, two of them seriously, in a Hizbullah ambush in the security zone yesterday.

The latest incident, following previous Hizbullah attacks close to the northern border in which five soldiers were killed and 14 wounded, heightened the prospect of a stern IDF response. Military sources quoted on Channel 1's news broadcast last night said the "safety catch" would be released.

The attack yesterday afternoon, on the Rehna-Aishiyeh road in the zone's northeastern sector, appears to have been a combined ambush and roadside bomb blast.

Reports from Lebanon said an explosive device was detonated alongside an IDF patrol and gunmen simultaneously opened fire with anti-tank weapons and machine guns.

According to Hizbullah's statement, the patrol consisted of several civilian cars and a military vehicle. Simultaneously, gunmen opened fire with Katyusha rockets and mortars at nearby IDF and South Lebanese Army positions.

The soldiers, including those who were not badly hurt, managed to get out of the vehicles and return fire. Reinforcements were sent to the scene and six wounded soldiers were evacuated by helicopters; two to Rebecca Sieff Hospital in Safed and four to Haifa's Rambam Hospital, where the condition of two was reported to be serious.

Dr. Zvi Ben-Isai, deputy director of the hospital, said all suffered from shrapnel injuries to their limbs and some had internal injuries.

IDF and SLA gunners blasted suspected Hizbullah targets in the area and north of the zone in response to the attack. There were no immediate reports of casualties among the attackers, although Hizbullah has lost four of its gunmen in fighting in the region in the past week.

The IDF has recorded over 100 incidents since the beginning of the year, including long-range attacks on positions and the recent, more sophisticated attacks.

The incident yesterday coincided with a general strike in Lebanon organized by the Amal Shi'ite movement to mark the 18th anniversary of the Litani Operation. Demonstrations were held throughout the country calling for an end to Israel's occupation of the zone. (Story, page 4)

A Hizbullah support group, meanwhile, launched a campaign to raise money for the organization's fighting arm, the Islamic Resistance, under the slogan "Buy a bullet for the resistance and the defenders of our homes and people."

## Did you remember?

Clocks were moved ahead by one hour last night at midnight as Daylight Saving Time took effect.

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SHABBAT	BEGINS	ENDS
Jerusalem	6:59	7:23
Tel Aviv	6:27	7:25
Haifa	6:19	7:24
Beersheba	6:25	7:24
Eilat	6:27	7:25



# Clinton pledges \$100m. in anti-terror aid

DAVID MAKOVSKY

US PRESIDENT Bill Clinton punctuated his morale-boosting solidarity trip to Israel at a time of terror by promising more than \$100 million in anti-terrorism assistance and an upgrade in intelligence cooperation.

Wherever he went yesterday, a visibly moved Clinton warmly held Israel's hand, and in symbol-laden appearance, demonstrated that the US stands at its side by urging it to keep pursuing a path of peace and security.

Clinton returned to the US last night, but Secretary of State Warren Christopher and CIA Director John Deutch stayed behind to flesh out components of the anti-terrorism and bolstered security package. Working-level meetings were held last night and more consultations are scheduled for today.

In an unprecedented appearance before the cabinet, Clinton unveiled his plans for bolstering aid to combat terrorism. After hearing a security overview from Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Clinton said he surmised that Shahak thinks Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat is not doing enough.

According to a participant, Shahak responded, "He is doing things, but it is not enough."

Standing alongside Prime Minister Shimon Peres at a press conference afterward, Clinton declared the US would continue to fight terrorism. "Whatever effort it takes, whatever time it takes, we must say to them: You will be tracked down. You will be rooted out," he said.

He said the assistance program would include a comprehensive package of training and technical aid, advanced bomb-detection scanners and sniffers, a variety of X-ray systems, robots for handling suspect packages, and advanced thermal and radar sensors. Clinton said he already sent Congress a message asking for the assistance, half of which would come from this year's Pentagon budget and the other half next year.

This assistance comes on top of \$22 million in advanced bomb-detection equipment provided earlier this month.

Clinton also said a decision had not yet been made on an overall framework for bolstered security cooperation. There is speculation this will be a prime topic in discussions Christopher and Deutch will be holding.

Clinton said any anti-terrorism assistance could not eliminate the prospects of terrorism in an open society, but it is very scusible to



President Bill Clinton waves to youngsters at the Tel Aviv Center for the Performing Arts yesterday. To his right is youth representative Liat Moodric and Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

seek to minimize those risks to the extent possible.

"Is it absolutely certain that nothing like that will ever happen again? No," Clinton said. "What we are trying to do is to reduce the risks, to reduce the likelihood of this to prevent more of these things from happening, to catch more of the wrongdoers."

While there is a growing consensus that the closure should not block food from reaching Palestinians in the territories, Clinton said that he strongly backs Israel's opposition to lifting the closure at this time.

He said Hamas is responsible for the closure, and asserted that it is the terrorists goal to bring about a closure, hoping misery will turn people against peace. "It's a deliberate attempt by them to make the Palestinians as miserable as possible," he said.

Saying Israel's first duty is to its

own citizens. Clinton stated, "If you have to choose anything over your continued existence, you will always choose your continued existence. Security will take preference. So these people are not stupid. They're doing this to provoke the reaction that they got. And we have to stand against them together."

Clinton said that he expected the Sharm e-Sheikh conference to produce genuine results. Participants committed themselves to hammering out conclusions in a working group over the next 30 days.

He said he did not meet privately with Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal and therefore there was no specific discussion about the Saudis curbing or funds from their country would be transferred to Hamas. However, he voiced hope that the Saudis

(Continued on Page 2)

## Bush or Carter couldn't have done it

COMMENT

DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton might be facing a tough election campaign back home, but he conquered Israel yesterday in a way that suggests he could walk to victory here in May.

While judgment must be reserved on the substantive success of his anti-terrorism conference in Sharm e-Sheikh, one does not have to wait to realize that Clinton came across as someone who has an extraordinary reservoir of empathy for the people of Israel.

At the Sinai parley, Clinton told the assembled leaders, including those of 13 Arab states, that he wanted to personally make it clear that "Israel is not alone." This outpour of solidarity was repeated throughout his visit, as he sought to boost Israel's morale.

His symbolic appearances, laced with gestures, radiated warmth and friendship, something one cannot imagine someone like George Bush or Jimmy Carter ever doing. He was tearful while holding Leah Rabin's hand as he stared at the gravestone of Yitzhak Rabin, then placed a stone from the White House on the grave. He also visited the graves of IDF soldiers, including Nahshoo Wachsmann, and made an unprecedented appearance before the security cabinet. More than anything else, his

whom aides say Clinton looked up to as a figure of Churchillian dimensions.

As Leah Rabin put it: "In general, Americans have a certain openness. But, President Clinton has an extreme capability of being able to initiate a relationship."

Of course, there are interests at stake, namely Clinton's fear that the peace process could unravel before the US elections, something he apparently believes would be more likely if Shimon Peres is defeated.

Furthermore, there is no doubt, Clinton has had luck. Almost all of his predecessors were

(Continued on Page 2)

## Israel asks for US technology to establish separation line

BILL HUTMAN

ISRAEL has requested the US to supply much of the state-of-the-art technology needed to establish a "Demarcation Line" with the administered territories, according to American officials here, to work out the details of the support package promised by US President Bill Clinton.

A team of State Department anti-terror experts has been meeting in recent days with senior police officers to work out the details of exactly what equipment and know-how the US will provide to help Israel fight terror.

The US officials were sent here immediately after the attack at Dizengoff Center last week.

Sources involved in the talks said the main Israeli request has been for high-tech equipment, ranging from radar systems to bomb and explosive detection devices. The US offered help in training police anti-terror units,

but this was rejected, the sources said.

The equipment is virtually all earmarked for the so-called "Demarcation Line" - which largely follows the Green Line - that police have wanted to establish for over a year to prevent Palestinians from illegally infiltrating the country and to keep a close watch on those who enter legally.

A revised plan now being finalized by the police calls for the establishment of eight to 10 border crossings. Only a few kilometers of the more than 200-kilometer-long Demarcation Line will have fences. For the rest of the line, police will be relying heavily on the high-tech equipment from the US to keep infiltrators out.

"The Israelis want equipment for their Demarcation Line with the Palestinians," an American

## Yatom likely next Mossad chief

DAVID MAKOVSKY

MAJ-GEN. Danny Yatom is a main candidate to head the Mossad, senior sources confirmed.

On the way to the Sharm e-Sheikh conference on Wednesday, Peres told reporters he had already appointed someone to succeed "S", who is becoming director of the Maccabi Health Fund.

Yatom has served as military aide to Peres and Yitzhak Rabin for the last four years. He also has served two stints as OC Central Command.

Yatom is known not just for his discretion, but also his bureaucratic skills. Under Rabin, he gradually centralized all peace process issues - not only the security-related - in the Prime Minister's Office.

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President Bill Clinton and Leah Rabin stand in silence at the grave of Yitzhak Rabin yesterday on Mt. Herzl. (Ariel Jerolimski)

# Clinton, Rabin family visit 'haver's' grave

AS the rain fell on Yitzhak Rabin's newly unveiled tombstone at Mt. Herzl in Jerusalem yesterday, members of the Rabin family gathered in front of the grave: his daughter Dalia, with a bouquet of roses, his son Yuval, and grandchildren Noa and Yonatan. Behind them, under the tall trees, stood US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Foreign Minister Ehud Barak, and other senior officials. Inside a giant plastic tent were the security officers overseeing the safety of the VIPs.

**BATSHEVA TSUR**

Bill Clinton had requested that not a sound be uttered, and even the Israeli media people turned off their beepers and cellular phones. Slowly, they approached the grave from the path below - Leah Rabin, carrying red roses, flanked by Clinton and Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Clinton paused to talk in whispers with the family. Then he lifted a wreath of red, white, and blue flowers and laid it on the grave. On a red ribbon across the

wreath was written, in Hebrew and English, the phrase he coined and which has come to symbolize feelings for Rabin: "Shalom, haver." Alongside, Leah Rabin placed her roses on the black-and-white marble tombstone designed by architect Moshe Safdie. Clinton stood for a long minute with bowed head, squeezing Rabin's hand, then took her arm and gently led her to where the rest of the family stood. Dalia and Noa added their roses, and the family and family friend dispersed in silence.

# Clinton's aid to Israel slammed

**HILLEL KUTTLER**  
WASHINGTON

HOUSE Foreign Operations Subcommittee chairman Sonny Callahan (Republican, Alabama) attacked President Bill Clinton's announcement of a new \$100 million anti-terrorism package to Israel.

Asked to comment on the matter, Callahan said Clinton "isn't the only one who wants to see a lasting peace in the Middle East. However, I'm uncomfortable, at this time, committing another \$100 million until we have a better understanding [of] how they're going to pay for this."

Callahan, whose committee oversees foreign aid, said he would have "no problem" with Clinton simply taking the funds from the more than \$5 billion already allocated to Egypt and Israel.

"But if he expects us to continue coming up with all this money that he goes out and promises, then let me tell you, I'm not excited about it one bit," he said. "And if he's going to ask for a tax increase to pay for this, or if he wants to increase the deficit to do it, then I don't see any way I can support his request."

But Senate Intelligence Committee chairman Arlen Specter

(Republican, Pennsylvania) said yesterday that he supports Clinton's pledge of \$100 million to upgrade Israel's anti-terrorism capabilities.

"I think it's a realistic amount to appropriate. We're currently spending \$5.1 billion between Egypt and Israel anyway," Specter said in an interview, referring to their economic and military assistance packages. "If we can really get a hold of terrorism in the Middle East, \$100 million would be a bargain."

Specter - who also sits on the Foreign Operations Subcommittee that has jurisdiction over foreign assistance - said he would not favor allocating additional funds to the Palestinian Authority for upgrading intelligence capabilities.

He also said Congress would have to "find an offset" account from which to take the money Clinton pledged.

Several Republicans in Congress criticized Clinton last month for pledging to upgrade F-16 fighters for Jordan without seeking congressional advice and

approval. Last year Callahan held up Jordan's debt relief.

Specter met with CIA director John Deutch on Tuesday as Deutch was leaving with Clinton for Sharm e-Sheikh to discuss the administration's efforts.

Specter said he is "all for" American intelligence sharing with the PA, provided it's "selectively and carefully done," but said the US should not allocate more funds to the PA beyond the \$500 million in assistance it pledged in 1993.

"Let's see them earn that first. Pardon me for just being a little strident on that point," he said. "I'm not ready to give them any more money until they've earned what we've committed."

Meanwhile, late last night Congress passed, by 229-191, a stripped-down version of an anti-terrorism bill that was presented after last April's Oklahoma City bombing.

Amendments approved on Wednesday removed provisions allowing the deportation of for-

ities based on secret evidence and forbidding fundraising in the US by terrorist organizations. Other changes were supported by both right-wing and civil liberties groups, fearing an infringement of individual freedoms.

However, Congressman Charles Schumer said a strong anti-terrorism bill is needed.

"This bill does not trample our rights," the New York Democrat said. "Terrorists are raising money in this country today. We must act. We need a hard, cold, balanced response to terrorism."

Schumer released a videotape of meetings held in several US cities where speakers from Islamic groups urged violence against Israel and asked for money to help Palestinians.

"The United States has become a safe haven for Hamas and other terrorist groups to raise money. These videos are graphic proof that Hamas and other militant groups are raising money and organizing extensively in this country," he said.

AIPAC, the pro-Israel lobby, supported the original legislation and released a statement yesterday saying it was "deeply disappointed" by the amended bill.

# IDF continues crackdown on Hamas

**ARIEH O'SULLIVAN**

THE army arrested 29 Hamas and Islamic Jihad suspects in wide-ranging sweeps throughout Judea and Samaria yesterday, bringing to over 300 the number taken in since the crackdown began.

Five of the suspects were apprehended in Akabe, near Jenin, and eight others in half a dozen in villages surrounding Ramallah, an army officer said. He said 17 of the arrests were in the Hebron region, 10 in the Arab refugee camp, and the rest in Beit Omar.

Ha'aretz, meanwhile, reported that Israel has captured and is interrogating two Palestinian youths who planned to carry out suicide bombings. The report said they were captured near Hebron last Monday and had explosives rigged for the attacks and other equipment in their possession. They told their interrogators they were only waiting for the signal to strike.

If true, it would be the first time suicide bombers were apprehended with the actual bombs. Previously, Israel has only succeeded in capturing Palestinians who had expressed willingness to commit a suicide attack.

The army refused to comment on the report. A military source said details of the arrest operation in the Hebron area are being heavily suppressed.

But another officer involved in the sweeps said the story was probably not true, since the level of arrests did not include those involved in Hamas on that level.

# IDF eases closure

**ARIEH O'SULLIVAN**

THE army is to lift the internal closure in Judea and Samaria for 12 hours starting at 6 a.m. today, allowing Palestinians to move from village to village in order to work and stock up on supplies, an official said.

Palestinians will still be barred from entering Israel, and the closure will be reimposed tonight, said Shlomo Dror, spokesman for the Coordinator for Government Activity in the Territories.

Israel is also considering a number of steps to ease the closure, which has kept some two million Palestinians under virtual

blockade. Security officials are to meet over the weekend to examine the possibility of lifting the closure for good if security for Israelis can be ensured, Dror said.

Israel also intends to gradually allow food and produce to be allowed into Gaza, Judea and Samaria, followed by allowing produce, and later clothing, to be exported from the Palestinian-ruled areas.

This easing of restrictions would culminate with allowing Palestinian laborers to return to their jobs in Israel.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Peres higher in polls after Clinton visit

Polls yesterday showed this week's international anti-terrorism summit and a visit to Israel by US President Bill Clinton may have given Prime Minister Shimon Peres a much-needed popularity boost.

A Channel 1 television survey showed Peres had regained a slight lead over Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu; up by 47 to 45 percent. A similar poll by Channel 2 showed Peres leading 51 to 47 percent. Neither poll gave a margin of error or the sample size. AP

### Arab League encourages peace process

Arab foreign ministers yesterday urged Israel to resume negotiations with Syria and the Palestinians. In a statement issued after their semiannual meeting at Arab League headquarters in Cairo, the ministers also accused Israel of procrastinating in following through on its peace pledges to the Palestinians.

"We urge the two cosponsors [the US and Russia] to intervene with Israel to avoid delay in its talks with Syria and to end its occupation of the Golan," the statement said. The ministers also criticized Israel for sealing the territories after the bombings, terming the act "collective punishment." AP

### Man killed in road accident

David Malik, 60, of Haifa, was killed yesterday morning when his motor scooter was hit by a car near the Cave of Elijah the Prophet. Two passengers in the car were lightly injured. Itm

## CLINTON

(Continued from Page 1)

would do their share in combating terrorism.

Clinton also expressed optimism that European would get tougher toward Iran, since Teheran is "committed to supporting these terrorist activities and glorifying them."

In thinly-veiled criticism of Europe's current lax approach in dealing with Iran, Clinton said, "Every country in the world that deals with them is going to have to just wake up in the morning, look in the mirror, and decide whether they're going to stay with the policy they have or change it."

## BUSH

(Continued from Page 1)

faced with an Israel whose peace policies were - in different degrees - at odds with those of the US; but in Rabin, Clinton found a partner rather than an antagonist, and this has helped ensure the honeymoon of the last few years.

But these broader issues did not seem to matter yesterday. Clinton told one teenager, who asked him how to be a leader, that one must feel empathy for the needs of others. Regarding Israel, he clearly takes his own advice.

# Winning cards and numbers

In last night's PAYS HAZAK drawing, the holder of ticket number 267233 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 125159 won a car.

Tickets numbered 253676, 633582, 289355, 369680, 886426, 462403, 845927 and 269541 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 38620, 95065, 38770, 92321, 23056, 14355, 58015, 40368, 02141, 45932, 67716, 07404, 57026, 60340, 18282 56934, 00255, 18938 and 67399 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 823, 565, 067, 695, and 520 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 32, 02, 20, 40 and 23 won NIS 24. Tickets ending in 3 and 8 won NIS 8.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapays daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the 10 of spades, queen of hearts, ace of diamonds and king of clubs.

## CORRECTION

The characterization of AIPAC's work on Capitol Hill in the March 11 issue was in error. AIPAC worked with members of Congress to express concern about Chairman Yasser Arafat's inadequate efforts to combat terrorism; it mobilized support for a House resolution and Senate letter which put Congress on record in support of Israel's fight against terror, and called on Arafat to take specific measures to combat terrorism or risk US support for the Palestinian Authority.

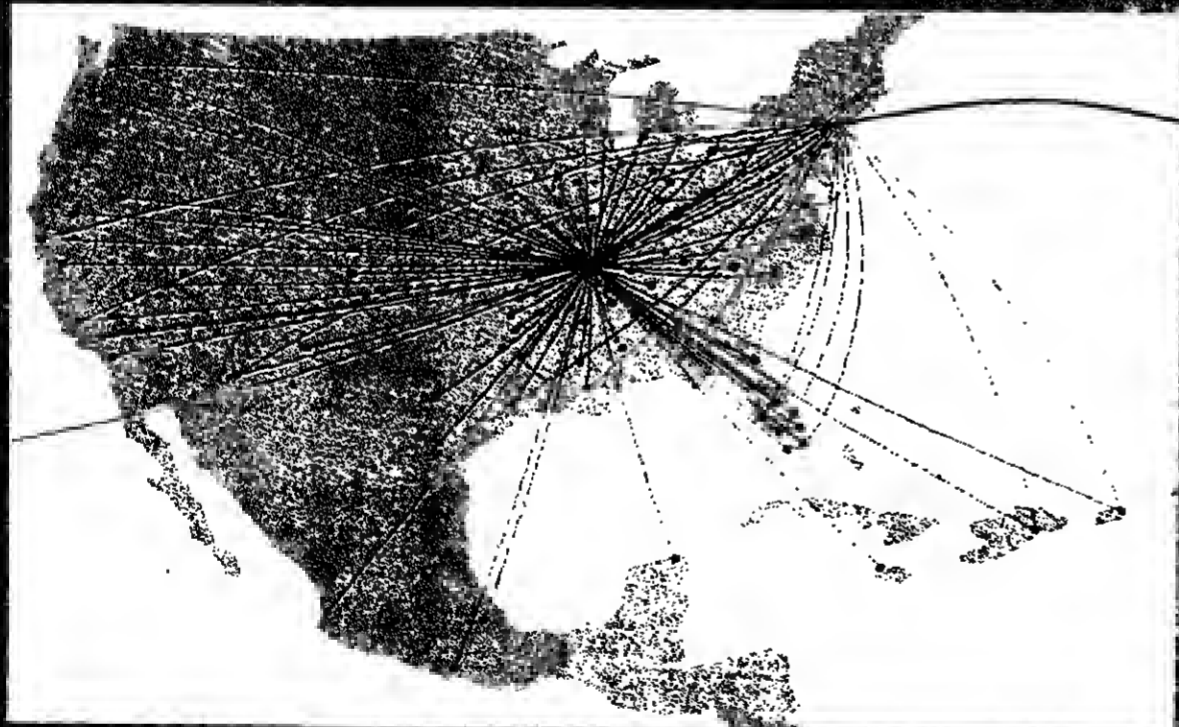
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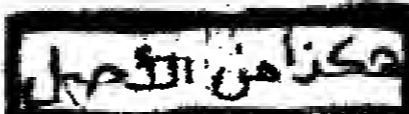


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# Clinton heeds plea from Olmert, visits Jerusalem high school

BILL HUTMAN

US PRESIDENT Bill Clinton made an unscheduled stop yesterday to light memorial candles and meet pupils at the Jerusalem high school that lost four graduates in the recent Hamas terror attacks.

"We don't want the children to grow up in terror, but in a land that is both free and safe," Clinton said upon his arrival at the Beit Hinech High School in the Katamoo neighborhood, where he was met by cheering pupils.

The meeting came after heavy coaxing from Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who was up in arms over Clinton's not having scheduled an event in the capital, hardest hit in the recent wave of bombings, to memorialize those killed in terror attacks.

US officials said Israel requested such an event be held in Tel Aviv and not Jerusalem for security reasons. Police confirmed that they asked for the event to be held in Tel Aviv, due to the threat of an attack in Jerusalem.

But Clinton, after meeting Olmert at his hotel in the morning, decided to change his plans and visit the school. "The mayor pointed out to me this school, what had happened here, and that it was on my way," Clinton said.

"I just asked them to rearrange my schedule," Clinton told reporters at Beit Hinech, where security was extremely tight. Most of the pupils were forced to remain in their classrooms, and only watch from the windows as the president came and went.

Clinton met with a handful of pupils at the school's entrance next to a memorial for the fallen in terror attacks and wars. He lit four candles, in memory of Yoni Baran, Yoni Levy, Merav Nachum, and Moshe Reuven, killed in the two recent suicide bombings in the city.

"Thank you for coming here," one pupil said.

"I hope you are reflected president," said another.

The visit, also attended by Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Olmert, lasted about 15 minutes.

"There are some things that you can just request, and there are things that you must demand," said Olmert, who had threatened to boycott the Clinton visit because the president did not schedule a stop at a city school or terror bombing site.

Clinton's decision came too late for Olmert to change his order on Tuesday forbidding official Jerusalem school participation in the Tel Aviv meeting between Clinton and pupils, because Clinton was not making a similar stop in Jerusalem, according to city officials.

In their meeting, Olmert also offered municipal aid in expediting the move of the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Clinton made no indication he would take Olmert up on the offer, according to the officials.

Meanwhile, traffic ground to a halt in much of Jerusalem while Clinton was in the city.



US President Bill Clinton meets with Likud chairman Binayamin Netanyahu yesterday in Jerusalem. (Remer)

# Clinton to Netanyahu: I will work with whomever Israeli electorate chooses

SARAH HONG

US PRESIDENT Bill Clinton promised yesterday his administration will work with whomever the Israeli electorate votes for.

He made his comment after meeting with Likud chairman Binayamin Netanyahu for half an hour.

The meeting was described as warm and friendly by Netanyahu's aides.

Clinton defined America's part in the Mideast peace process as a "facilitating role," and said the actual agreements must be hammered out by the parties, as opposed to the US imposing solutions upon them.

Clinton, who acknowledged Netanyahu's popularity abroad, asked him to use his influence to campaign worldwide for a more effective fight against terror.

Clinton said he had read Netanyahu's previous books, and was given a copy of his latest book.

Netanyahu told Clinton that he welcomes his visit here, and said that should he be elected, his government will continue the peace process, "but from a different direction and with different

emphases. Recent atrocities in Israel have made people cynical, but they must not lose hope for peace. Yet peace must be sought realistically. Terror must be combated everywhere, and the IDF must not be prevented of entering any area needed to safeguard Israeli civilians."

Netanyahu stressed that he does not propose reoccupying Gaza, but that he will insist on freedom of action for Israel everywhere.

He urged tangible sanctions against nations which foster and abet terrorism, and argued that the PLO's Yasser Arafat is not doing nearly enough at his end.

Accompanying Netanyahu to the visit was his spokesman, Shai Barak, and Dr. Dore Gold, of Tel Aviv University's Jaffe Center for Strategic Studies. On the American side, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, Mark Paris, who is responsible for Near East affairs in the National Security Council, and US Ambassador in Israel Martin Indyk took part.

(Continued from Page 1)

bar Ayalon, head of the National Police Operations Division. Ayalon also was recently appointed by Police Insp.-Gen. Assaf Hefetz to a police committee on establishing the Demarcation Line.

On the US side, the State Department's Office of Anti-terrorism Assistance is handling the contacts with the police. They have toured the proposed Demarcation Line to see firsthand what is needed to prevent infiltration.

The American officials also visited the training grounds of the police anti-terror unit, the Yamam. The Americans offered to bring several Yamam members to the US for additional training, but police brass said they were not interested.

Senior police sources said they were impressed by the openness and willingness of the US to help in a wide range of anti-terror operations. However, in operational areas, such as with the Yamam, there is little if anything the Americans can contribute, the sources said.

The sources confirmed their aim is to use the American aid to establish the Demarcation Line, which has long been held up because of lack of funding. The original plan presented over a year ago carried a price tag of over NIS 500 million.

# Young Israelis love Clinton

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE youngsters of Israel enveloped US President Bill Clinton with love yesterday.

Young people from schools all over the country crowded into the huge auditorium of Tel Aviv's Mishkan Ha'manuot arts center and waited for more than two hours for the American president.

"We want to tell him that the young in Israel love people like Clinton who, although they are terribly busy and terribly important, take the time to come and tell us that they are on our side," one boy said.

Clinton spoke to them of the destiny of the Jewish people, of Yitzhak Rabin, and of the great period of change in which we are living, "the greatest since the Industrial Revolution 100 years ago." But most of all, he spoke of the future and the next generation's place in it.

Clinton told the youths that Israel is not alone, that America stands with them and supports them. He promised that the conference in Sharm e-Sheikh will not end in words alone and reiterated Washington's commitment to fight with Israel against terrorism.

He called on them not to abandon hope in the face of adversity and to fight to fulfill their dream for a better future.

Clinton, who was presented by Peres as "a man who is trying to change the future from blood to hope," seemed to enchant the thousand or so young people in the audience.

"We know that overcoming adversity is the genius of the Jewish people and the history of the State of Israel," Clinton told them. "No nation on earth knows [better] that the path of trial often passes through tragedy."

"No people knows better, through millennia of exile and persecution, inquisition and pogroms, and the ultimate evil of the Holocaust, that you must deny victory to oppressors, that you must flourish — indeed flourish, not just endure — against all odds."

Peres, who spoke before Clinton, was received with a storm of applause in a standing ovation. He spoke of the joint Israel-US efforts "to turn a region of hatred, fighting, suspicion, and cynicism into a region of understanding and hope."

"Thirty of the world's leaders, among them 13 leaders of Arab states, sat there [in the Sharm e-Sheikh conference]," Peres said. "Clinton rose and said, not in Israel but from Jews, but on Egyptian soil, 'My heart is with the people of Israel, with the suffering they are going through.' I never saw anything like it. I saw before me a new world."

The national anthems, songs,

# Clinton calls boys injured in TA attack

THE hospital where 16-year-old Tal Loel is recovering from last week's Tel Aviv bomb blast was not on President Bill Clinton's itinerary yesterday.

So Loel invited himself to the White House instead.

"I'm sorry I couldn't come by to see you," Clinton told the excited teenager in a six-minute telephone call yesterday afternoon to Ichilov Hospital, where Loel and his best friend Uri Tal are being treated in the plastic surgery unit.

"We would be happy to visit you in the White House when we get better," proposed Loel, who was badly burned on his stomach, arm, and leg.

"You will be most welcome," Clinton responded. "We would love to see you there."

The presidential phone call came about after the two teens sent a telegram to Clinton, asking him to come see them at the hospital during his 24-hour visit to Israel. Clinton, however, had been advised against making a hospital visit for security reasons.

"As victims of terrorism, the reason for your visit in the Middle East, we also believe that peace is the only true solution for this area," the boys said in the telegram.

"We wish to strength [sic] yours and Mr. Peres's hands."

Tal, whose eardrums were injured in the blast, did not speak to Clinton. Clitoo spoke to his mother, Esther, instead.

and speeches over, Clinton rose to leave. But hearing that four pupils had prepared questions, he decided to stay to answer them, though he was already behind schedule.

Then, signaled by his security men that he really must leave, he walked up to the two children's choir on the stage and shook hands with those in the front row, from the Ethiopian Shiva choir, which had sung "The Way to Jerusalem."

Clinton then walked into the rows of choir members and stood smiling widely — giving them a photo-opportunity with the US president.

Still, he lingered, waving again and again to the cheering youngsters. A sea of hands waved back, until he walked away and disappeared from view.

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It was Arafat who prevented the extradition of Ahmad Abu Warda, the dispatcher of human bombs, by means of a lightning mock-trial.

It was Arafat who smuggled in terrorists and explosives.

It was Arafat who ordered a 21-gun salute in honor of the "Engineer."

It was Arafat who ordered the corrupt Godfather of Terrorism, who starred with Peres at the farcical "International Counter-Terrorism Conference!"

Citizens of Israel: The Peres-Arafat "WAR Against Terrorism" is a hoax. The arrests are a mere bluff. Closure is no solution but a deceitful diversion. The only way Peres "fights" Arab terrorism is with speeches at showy international conferences.

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# Shaath threatens armed conflict if peace fails

**PALESTINIAN** Authority Planning Minister and leading negotiator Nabil Shaath has threatened a return to the "armed struggle" if Israel does not yield to Palestinian demands. Shaath, known as a political moderate and dedicated advocate of the Oslo process, was speaking at a recent Nablus symposium televised by Palestinian television.

A videotape of the program was released yesterday by the Institute for Peace Education, the organization which first exposed tapes of belligerent speeches by Yasser Arafat. In it, Shaath is seen making the following remarks:

"If the negotiations reach a dead

**Jerusalem Post Staff**

end, we shall go back to the struggle and strife, as we did for 40 years. It is not beyond our capabilities...

"As long as Israel goes forward [with the process], there are no problems, which is why we observe the agreements of peace and non-violence. But if and when Israel will say, 'That's it, we won't talk about Jerusalem, we won't return refugees, we won't dismantle settlements, and we won't retreat from borders,' then all the acts of violence will return."

"Except that this time we'll have 30,000 armed Palestinian

soldiers who will operate in areas in which we have unprecedented elements of freedom."

Speaking in similar terms, Fatah secretary and Arafat spokesman Marwan Barghout told the London newspaper *The Independent* on Tuesday that the Palestinian security forces have been ordered to fire on Israeli soldiers if they try to enter territory under the PA's control.

"They have already received their orders," he said.

He also said that the Palestinians possess much more weaponry than the agreement allows and that their armed forces are much larger than advertised.



US President Bill Clinton gestures as he chats with Prime Minister Shimon Peres at yesterday's special summit. Seated next to them are Foreign Minister Ehud Barak (left) and Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

## Lebanon protests Israeli presence

**BEIRUT (Reuters)** - Lebanon shut down yesterday in a protest called by the country's top Shiite politician against Israel's occupation of the security zone.

Schools, shops, businesses, and government offices closed for the 18th anniversary of Israel's first invasion of Lebanon in the year 1978.

In Beirut, many Lebanese wore yellow ribbons and flew yellow ribbons on their cars to mark the Day of Solidarity with occupied south Lebanon, which totals 11

percent of the country.

In Beirut, Hizbullah cars toured streets, decked with yellow ribbons. They carried loudspeakers blaring resistance hymns and boxes on their hoods to collect contributions.

The strike, called by parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, was widely observed, even in Christian areas which fear Hizbullah's Islamic militancy. Lebanon's Maronite Christian bishops issued a statement expressing solidarity with the South and concern at the con-

tinued fighting.

The government complained in a statement that the world is doing nothing to stop or condemn Israeli "terrorism and violent acts" against south Lebanon, while holding the Sharm e-Sheikh summit in response to acts of violence against Israel.

"They were sorry because we did not attend the summit, but they never felt sorry over Lebanon's continued destruction," President Elias Hrawi was quoted as saying.

## Turkish president: Patience needed for peace

**GAZA CITY (AP)** - Israel and the Palestinians must be patient and have more confidence in each other if the peace process is to succeed, Turkey's president said yesterday.

"The peace process comes after some 45 years of fighting," President Suleyman Demirel said at a news conference after meeting with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza. "Both sides should be patient."

Demirel, making his first visit to Gaza, said Turkey is ready to help the Palestinians develop their econo-

my and to increase trade with them.

Arafat said he discussed with Demirel the difficulties the Palestinians face as a result of the 19-day closure on the West Bank and Gaza.

The closure is creating "very terrible and very difficult circumstances and a very sad atmosphere, and has given a very good platform for those who are against peace," Arafat said.

"No doubt it is affecting the peace process negatively, because it is a collective punishment," he added.

A SURVEY of Palestinian residents of Samaria shows that 76 percent of respondents support the continuation of terrorist attacks in areas occupied by Israel and in areas where there are settlers. The survey was conducted by Nablus's An-Najah University student council and its results were published in Wednesday's *An-Nahar* newspaper in Jerusalem, Israel Radio reported.

More than 84% expressed opposition to steps taken by the Palestinian Police against Hamas and 86% said there is no difference between right and left in Israel regarding the Palestinian issue.

*Jerusalem Post Staff*

## Poll: Most Palestinians support terror

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States offered a reward of up to \$2 million on Wednesday for information leading to the capture of a Palestinian hijacker of the Achille Lauro cruise ship who escaped from prison in Italy.

In a sign of the high priority Washington is assigning to the case in which American Leon Klinghoffer was murdered, the State Department announced it was also prepared to resettle informants and their families in the United States.

Spokesman Glyn Davies said the US offer was separate from an unspecified reward offered on Wednesday by the Italian government for information on the escaped hijacker, Magied Molqi.

Molqi, who was serving a 30-year sentence for the 1985 hijack, failed to return to jail in Rome on February 28 after 12 days' parole for good behavior. The US government has told Italy of its indignation that he was allowed out of prison.

Molqi was found primarily responsible for the murder of Klinghoffer, a wheelchair-bound American Jew who was shot and dumped overboard. Molqi's escape has caused outrage in the US and

## US offers \$2 million for Achille Lauro hijacker

embarrassed the Rome government.

Davies said Molqi "should be considered armed and dangerous," and anyone with information on him should contact the nearest US Embassy, or consulate or the US government in Washington.

The State Department promised "complete confidentiality" to informants. "If appropriate, the US government will even relocate people and their families to the US," Davies said.

He said Washington had told the Italian government of its offer. Earlier, Italy's Interior Ministry said it was ready to offer a "substantial reward" for information.

Davies said Washington was awaiting the results of Italy's investigation into how Molqi obtained a furlough, but was pleased with steps the Italians had taken "and the understanding they've expressed of our initial tough reaction."

Of four Palestinians originally convicted in Italy of the Achille Lauro hijacking off the coast of Egypt, only one is still in prison. One was paroled in 1991 and another disappeared the same year while on prison leave.

ance to sign \$ million Palestinian pact

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As a result of the clocks having been moved forward, the Nitzana crossing point will be now be operating **Sunday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., effective Sunday, March 17, 1996.**

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**Bomber's driver petitions court**

SAID Suleimani, suspected of transporting the Dizengoff bomber to Tel Aviv, petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday against the General Security Service's refusal to let him meet with his lawyer. Suleimani has already petitioned the court once on this issue and been turned down, after the court was convinced that allowing him to see a lawyer would interfere with the investigation and damage state security. He again petitioned the court because the ban on meetings was extended on Monday for a second week.

*Evelyn Gordon*

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Value of the Prize: about \$10,000 in NIS equivalent.

Those interested in having their research considered for the Prize, should submit a brief summary of the work, not exceeding two double space pages (printed). This summary must address the following issues:

- The subject of the work and the issue-areas covered by it
- The relationship to Israel's national security problems
- The research methods
- The major findings (in case of a completed work), or the principal hypotheses (in case of a work in progress)

The research summaries must be submitted no later than May 30, 1996. The Tshetshik Prize Committee will inform all applicants by July 1, 1996, whether or not their proposal conforms with the by-laws of the Prize.

The Prize ceremony will take place in March-April 1997 at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies. Submissions should be sent to the following address:

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مكتبة القدس



Prime Minister Shimon Peres shakes Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul-Karim al-Iryani's hand, while Russian President Boris Yeltsin looks on, at the anti-terrorism summit on Wednesday.

# Peres: Syrian talks must go on

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday he wants to keep the door open for further peace talks with Syria, despite its conspicuous absence from the Sharm e-Sheikh conference.

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

Peres does not call today, like Iran does, for the destruction of Israel. "Syria is negotiating with Israel to look for a peace, which Iran refuses completely."

"We don't want to close all the doors," Peres told reporters at a joint news conference with US President Bill Clinton. "We should clearly make it known that we cannot support terrorist headquarters in Damascus or elsewhere. But at the same time, we should continue the peace effort."

Foreign Minister Ehud Barak said Israel expects "a clear condemnation from Syria" of the recent suicide bombings. He said talks would resume "when conditions allow."

Syria called the conference an "international propaganda demonstration" intended to legitimize Israel's occupation of Arab territories.

In his remarks at the conference, Peres singled out Iran as a supporter of terrorism. He did not mention Syria.

Yesterday, he acknowledged that "there is a similarity" between Syria and Iran, "because there are headquarters of terrorist organizations in Damascus. But there is also a difference. Syria

does not call today, like Iran does, for the destruction of Israel.

"Syria is negotiating with Israel to look for a peace, which Iran refuses completely."

Syria must be persuaded "to depart from any support or shelter to terrorism," Peres said. "It's not black and white. It's difficult, it takes time."

Clinton agreed that the Syrians' absence from the conference was "a mistake," but said he was not surprised.

"It was a missed opportunity for the Syrians, and I wish that they had been there, but I do not believe that undermines the fundamental fact that the US is committed to support Israel, if Israel is involved in negotiations and taking risks for peace," he said.

"We know there will never be a comprehensive peace in the Middle East until there is a resolution of the differences between Israel and Syria."

US and Israeli officials say Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and other terrorist groups have offices in Damascus that should be shut down. The annual report on terrorism worldwide says, however,

er, that while providing safe haven for these groups, Syria itself has not sponsored a terrorist act for years.

Officials with access to intelligence data say the offices are operational, and Islamic Jihad, in particular, has directed attacks from its Damascus office.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara, meanwhile, said his country did not participate in the conference because it felt its presence would "serve Israel."

Speaking to reporters after a closed-door meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, Shara also said he feels the summit's final communique was "unbalanced."

"The Syrian leadership studied the pros and cons of the conference and found that our participation would serve Israel," Shara said.

"We understand its sensitivity," Shara said of the bombings in Israel. "And we said that Syria has repeatedly condemned killing the innocent and made a distinction between fighting occupation and killing the innocent."

Moussa disagreed, saying the summit "tried to emerge with a balanced approach based on peace."

# Arab press: The only summit winner was Israel

CAIRO (Reuters) - The Arab press yesterday gave mixed interpretations of the results of the Sharm e-Sheikh summit, but many editorials agreed Israel was poised to benefit most.

The state-run press in Syria and Libya called the summit a clear victory for Israel and a resounding defeat for the Arabs.

"The Middle East peace process became the first loser of the summit. Arab causes were subjected to harm... The only winner was the Zionist radicalism which opposes a just and comprehensive peace," Syria's *Tishreen* said.

"Such a summit, which claimed that it is a summit of peacemakers, should have discussed the main reasons behind the hindering of the peace process," *Al-Thawra* said.

The Arab affairs editor of the Libyan news agency JANA wrote: "The conference ended with the victory of the Israelis over Arabs and the confirmation of their hegemony over them."

"The Israelis have achieved through attend-

ing the conference everything they wanted, from guaranteeing their security to guaranteeing the trial of those who want to liberate their land from the impurity of the Israeli occupation," he said.

In Jordan, some papers doubted whether the summit would bolster peace and curb violence. Others said it gave solid Arab and international backing to Israel and the Palestinians.

*Al-Ra'i* said: "The summit succeeded in providing Arab and international backing to Israel in a manner that prevents the peace process from collapsing and boosts the forces of peace and moderation. Hence, the symbolic side was more important than the practical side."

But a columnist at the paper disagreed, saying Israel was the victor while Arabs failed.

"The Israelis maximized the use of the summit and capitalized on [the attacks] and world reactions to highlight the terrorist face of the Arabs, Moslems, and Palestinians. Of course,

they were helped by grave mistakes committed by those who do not draw the line between resistance and terror."

Egypt's opposition *Al-Ahram* said the summit would not change anything as long as Israeli occupation continued.

"The Palestinian people will not give up their guns as long as their land is occupied. Every Palestinian citizen is a time-bomb ready to explode at any moment as long as control and subjugation continue," it said.

Gulf Arab newspapers said condemnation of political violence also included Israel.

Saudi Arabia's *Al-Yaum* said: "Israeli massacres against Moslems in the occupied territories were not less repugnant than recent bombings."

Qatar's *Al-Sharq* said: "The summit has condemned all attacks harming the peace process. This applies to all attacks being Palestinian or Israeli."

# Euro parliament calls for terrorist crackdown

STRASBOURG, France (Reuters) - THE European Parliament yesterday protested Iran's policy of financially supporting terror and called on all countries to pressure Iran into stopping that support.

Practical steps are needed to fight terrorism and safeguard the Middle East peace process, the parliament said.

US President Bill Clinton said on Wednesday after a 27-nation "Summit of Peacekeepers" at Sharm e-Sheikh that funding for radical groups would be blocked, but gave few details of other measures.

In a resolution condemning recent attacks, the parliament also regretted that some Middle Eastern countries had not attended the summit called after

Hamas Islamic fundamentalist bomb attacks killed 58 people in Israel.

Iran and other regional states accused of supporting terrorism were not invited and Syria turned down an invitation.

The parliament welcomed efforts by the Palestine Authority to arrest Hamas activists, and urged it to continue to cooperate with the Israeli government in cracking down on terrorists.

It regretted that Israel's closure of borders with the Palestine territories had caused economic hardship, and urged the EU to increase humanitarian and reconstruction aid, while ensuring that extremist groups did not benefit.

# France to sign \$16 million Palestinian aid pact

PARIS (Reuters) - France will grant the Palestinian Authority 80 million francs (\$16 million) to develop the port of Gaza and launch water purification projects, French officials said yesterday.

The agreement is to be signed tomorrow in Gaza by French Economy Minister Jean Arthuis and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

"This visit aims at showing that France backs the peace process, notably in the concrete sphere of economic aid," government spokesman Alain Lamassoure told reporters.

A separate sum of about 23 million francs (\$4.6 million) has already been agreed for cultural, scientific, and technical aid to the Palestinians, he said.

The two bilateral aid packages, agreed in December, are separate from France's share of close to 20 percent in a \$480 million European Union aid program for 1996.

French President Jacques Chirac said at the "Summit of Peacemakers" in Egypt on Wednesday that economic development is the key to peace.

Arthuis will meet Prime Minister Shimon Peres in Jerusalem on Sunday before traveling to Kuwait the next day, officials said.

# Track work disrupts train service today

SYBIL EHRlich

DUE to work on the track, train service will be disrupted today. Trains northward from Tel Aviv will terminate at Binyamina, and there will be no service to Haifa.

The 7:54 and 11:35 departures from Tel Aviv Hasbalom to Haifa, and the 7:30 and 10:00 from Haifa to Tel Aviv will be canceled.

With the introduction of Daylight Saving Time, there will be a change in the timetable starting tomorrow night. Trains will depart two hours later than previously, leaving Tel Aviv Hasbalom at 21:44 and 22:39, from Haifa Bat Galim at 21:00, and from Kiryat Motzkin at 21:02.

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The Shaath tape

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres's standard response to critics of the Oslo accord, reiterated several times in recent days, is disarmingly simple and seemingly incontrovertible. True, he says, the Islamic groups still practice terrorism; but they are a small minority. What the Oslo agreement has achieved is the disavowal of terrorism on the part of a majority of the Palestinian people. The PLO, representing this majority, has decisively switched from violence to negotiations.

observers, including Military Intelligence officers, also minimized the importance of these speeches. Delivered at large rallies, they were aimed at preempting the radicals with tough talk. They do not reflect Palestinian policies, said the experts. But now the Institute for Peace Education, which was responsible for revealing the first Arafat tapes, has acquired a videotape of a recent symposium in Nablus in which Nabil Shaath, the PA's minister of planning and one of Arafat's closer advisers and negotiators, was a prominent participant. Shaath, the most "Western" of the Palestinian leaders, is considered a moderate and a dedicated advocate of the Oslo process.

Bravi Weizman, Olmert

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton's short visit to Israel yesterday was one of the most genuine and warm gestures ever made by an American president to the people of Israel. It is impossible to doubt the sincerity and genuineness of the feelings he expressed during his meetings with high school pupils and speaking on the phone to a wounded victim of the suicide bombing in Tel Aviv.

But the Palestinian objections prevailed. As PA planning minister Nabil Shaath told the Jerusalem Arabic daily A-Nahar yesterday, according to the Oslo agreement all of Jerusalem is negotiable. And the Palestinians have no intention of limiting their claims to the eastern part of the city. That President Ezer Weizman declined to accept such considerations of policy is admirable. His refusal to let Ben-Gurion Airport serve as Israel's capital was an act Israel expects of its president.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PUTTING THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE

Sir, - As a lifelong Labor supporter, Teddy Kollek presumably believes what he said in "Put real Jerusalem issues before silly slogans" (March 8). Like Mr. Peres, he forgets that the national consensus in Jerusalem can no longer be taken for granted because, for years, Israeli Jews like Moshe Amirav, Gershon Baskin, Sara Kaminker, Uri Avnery, etc. have been advocating the concept of "sharig" the city with the Palestinians. At the same time, organizations like the Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IP-CRI) have been promoting the idea internationally.

credit the religious, to demoralize the public generally and the IDF in particular by taking Jewish values out of education and everyday life and has sought to replace Zionist ideals and pride in the Jewish heritage with materialism of the worst kind. It has also neglected the country's economic problems in favor of its single-minded pursuit of an elusive peace process and an even more elusive "new Middle East."

HERE TO STAY

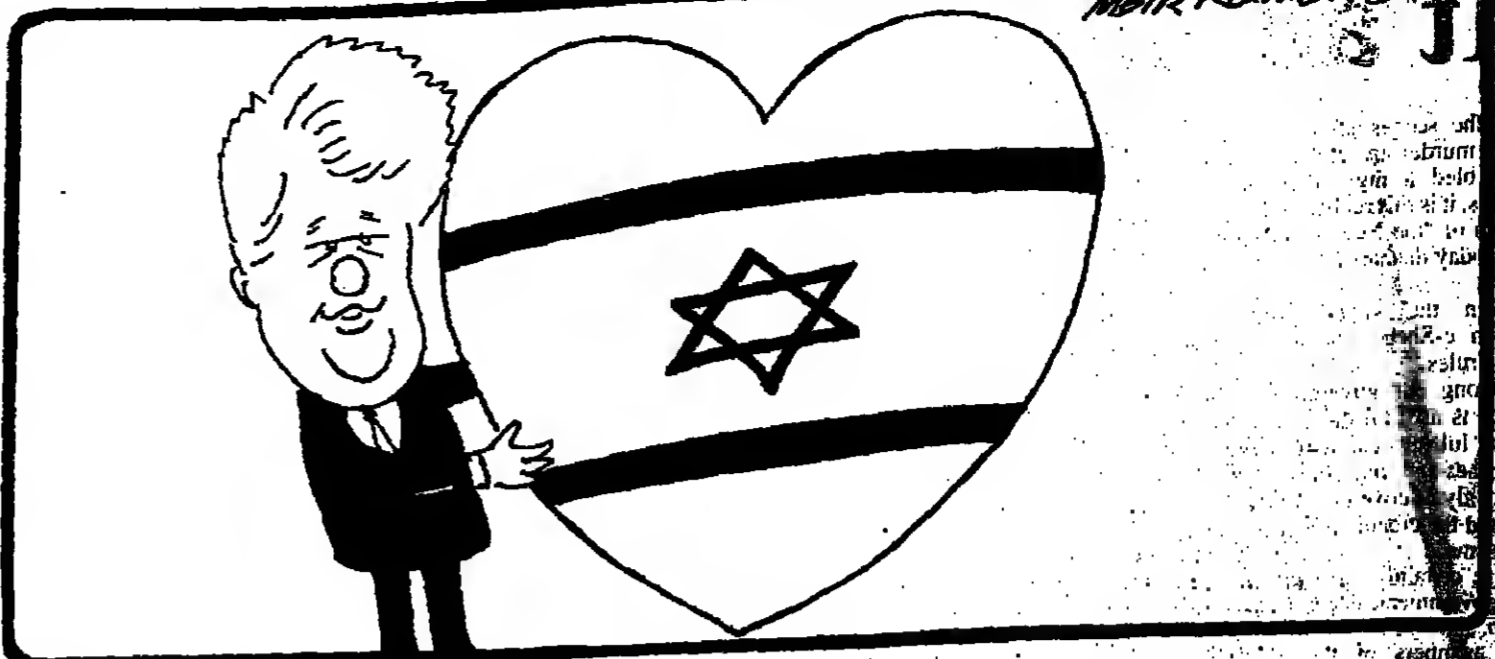
Sir, - I'm sure I speak for many if not all Israelis when I take strong exception to Sidney Zion's assertion (op-ed piece, March 10) that "if people can't walk on the streets of Tel Aviv, it's over for Israel." For Mr. Zion's information, as well as that of Hamas and any other terrorists, neither terrorists' bombs nor the fear of them will ever mean it's "over" for Israel. Israel is not an experiment that can be "over." In case you haven't noticed, Mr. Zion, Israel is here to stay.

RUTH MASON Jerusalem

TURNED OFF

Sir, - I am a Likud voter. However, two images that appeared on the news have turned me off: (1) Rafael Eitan parading through downtown Hebron brandishing a gun; (2) Dov Shilansky, in a jovial mood (while the whole country is still mourning), presenting a JNF certificate to the yeshiva student who shot dead the then still-unconfirmed Arab-American who ran into a crowd of Israelis in the French Hill suburb of Jerusalem.

R. WILLERS Jerusalem (Wemhley Park, Midx)



The Syrian terror umbrella

MOSHE ZAK

WHAT brought 28 presidents, kings, premiers and foreign ministers in Sharm e-Sheikh this week? Was it the four Hamas suicide bombers who struck earlier in Jerusalem, Ashkelon, and Tel Aviv? Anyone who paid close attention to the speeches - most of which repeatedly stressed the danger of "peace being murdered" and played down the fact that Jews and Israelis had actually been murdered - found it hard to escape the impression that most of those presidents, kings etc. had come to the summit out of fear that Israel might cease or delay implementing the Oslo accords, especially the timetable for its withdrawal from Hebron and rural areas.

other bomb-detecting equipment. But not all leaders at the conference were shaken to the same extent. Some saw the parley as an opportunity to try to "save" Arafat and proclaim their financial support for the PA, acting as though the authority wasn't providing a haven for the terrorists, and as though Gaza isn't the base from which Hamas and Islamic Jihad have been launching terror against Israel. Many of the leaders didn't come such a distance to make a five-minute speech or participate in a joint communiqué. Most of them have already helped draft such declarations after terrorist strikes elsewhere.

areas he controls, not on his dismantling Hamas and other terrorist headquarters in Syria. In boycotting the conference Assad's intention was to demonstrate his influence, and show that no one can force him to stop providing sanctuary for anti-Israel terrorists. His message to the conference he conveyed via Russia's Boris Yeltsin and the Saudi foreign minister. In their speeches, both included Syria's proposal that the Madrid Conference be reconvened. Yeltsin proposed Moscow as a venue, surprising neither the US

Negotiations with Syria now could point Arafat to a path contrary to the Sharm e-Sheikh formula

nor Israel. Some weeks ago Russia requested a more direct role in the Israeli-Syrian negotiations, suggesting alternate sessions in Maryland and Moscow. The Russian leader is engaging in some muscle-flexing here, trying to show that he is restoring Russia's lost superpower glory. He also has an eye on forthcoming elections, and believes that an enhanced role in our region can only help him win. What was the underlying message of Syria's "reconvene Madrid" proposal in the Jewish countries represented at the conference? And what did the Saudi foreign minister mean by endorsing it? The message was very likely that the peace process could be conducted under the umbrella of continued "armed struggle" against Israel by Hamas and Hizbullah terrorists. This directly contradicted the message the US

tried to put across - that terrorism must be fought wherever it occurs. The US and Israel rejected the operative part of the Syrian-Russian-Saudi proposal for reconvening Madrid. But the impression one gains from American-Israeli talks in Jerusalem is one of Washington pleading with Israel to get the talks with Syria going again. Some people are trying to persuade us that talks could help bring Hizbullah terrorism to an end. But after Syria's refusal to condemn terror, a resumption of negotiations on our part would surely send the wrong signal to Palestinian terrorists. Victory for Syria's policy would amount to splitting in the face of Wednesday's conference. It was Israel's threat to suspend the redeployment from Hebron, added to its vigorous steps against Hamas, that forced Arafat to admit that Hamas terror emanates from Gaza. If Israel should throw away its bargaining card of tough response to terror, Arafat might be led to return to his old deceitful ways by claiming, for example, that Jewish extremists gave help to the terrorists; or that Hamas does not operate out of Gaza, only in Israeli-controlled territory. The leverage provided by the closure of the territories, the campaign against terror, and the suspension of talks with the Palestinians have caused an awakening in the PA. On the other hand, a renewal of talks with Damascus and its refusal to condemn terror would encourage Arafat to adopt Syria's example: exploiting other terrorism for his own political aims. This is the most important lesson to be learned from Wednesday's summit. The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

The end result: Oslo or Bosnia?

ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

Even his political enemies might have spared a pang of empathy for Shimon Peres last Monday night when his strained face on television reflected the magnitude of the pressures imploding upon him after four successive suicide bombings. With his vision of a new Middle East threatening to become parody, it fell upon Peres simultaneously to seek a way to stop the bombings, keep the seemingly discredited Oslo agreements afloat, squeeze Yasser Arafat without breaking him, address the public's anguish, and retain his fast-dwindling chances of getting elected in May.

was a blunt reminder to Palestinians hanging out hunting for a state-in-the-making that they are a long way from independence, and that they will not get there while Israelis are being blown up. Peres refrained from ordering the military into the Palestine Authority's bailiwick, which would have put the peace process

ALTHOUGH most Palestinians support the peace process, they have responded to attacks on their former occupiers with equanimity, if not satisfaction. The spate of suicide bombings may now have changed that. Those Palestinians not moved by the horror itself have been made aware by Israel's forceful response that it will no longer per-

something to lose. Those are prerequisites for stability. Israel will in the end have to accept the Palestinians' desire for statehood, and the Palestinians will have to accept that Israel will not live alongside a state that spawns terror. It is a simple equation, but one that has elicited, and may still elicit tortured searches for alternative answers. The Six Day War shattered Arab dreams of destroying Israel. The intifada taught Israel that permanent occupation of the territories was not viable. The options have narrowed almost to the point of a general recognition that there is no other reasonable solution but honorable coexistence. Should Binyamin Netanyahu be elected, he will almost certainly end up doing what Shimon Peres would do - perhaps only after attempting some painful alternatives of his own - just as Manasseh Begin, swallowing all his headline rhetoric, grasped the nettle in Sinai. Who ever heads the government, right or left, in Israel or Palestine, the choice is clear: It's either Oslo or Bosnia.

In the end Israel and the Palestinians will have to bite the bullet and balance the peace equation

in limbo. However, he left little reason to doubt that such action would be taken if necessary. The pressure on Arafat to root out the Hamas bombers was credible enough to force him to begin at last moving in that direction. Despite the Israeli right's contention that the bombings have sunk Oslo, it seems likely that the Hamas kamikazes will end up strengthening the peace process, much as Yigal Amir did. (A pushing image: the Hamas bomb organizer arrested last week and Amir debating theology in the same cell for the rest of their lives.)

mit the Palestinians to march singing into their future while bombs go off in Israel. Arafat and Hamas itself are coming to grips with the fact that the rules of the game are changing and that Israel will not continue to engage in a peace process with a schizophrenic entity that talks of peace and sows death. At the same time, it is Peres's aim to prop up the Palestinians - with Arafat at their helm - until they are strong enough to form a cohesive society that can effectively police itself; also, a reasonably comfortable society that has

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff. His views do not necessarily represent those of the paper.

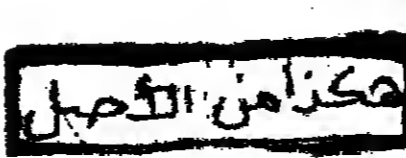
POSTSCRIPT

HERLINDA ESTRADA signed her husband's death certificate and joined other grieving family members in a hospital. Then her husband walked in. Jose Estrada didn't wake from the dead, but his return seemed just as miraculous after a series of coincidences. Since he turned up safe and sound, the Baytown, Texas, couple's 29-year marriage has never seemed sweeter. "You begin to understand just how important the people in your life really are and how much you would miss them if they were gone," Estrada said. The mix-up began when Estrada, 48, went for a run on a

jogging trail. He parked his pickup truck in a lot near the trail and started on his run. What he didn't know was that paramedics had just left the area with a heart-attack victim about his age who had collapsed and died along the same trail. The dead man carried no ID, leaving only a set of General Motors keys as a clue to his identity. A sheriff's deputy decided to see if the man's keys fit any of the GM vehicles in the parking lot. Against all odds, they fit Estrada's truck. The deputy contacted Mrs. Estrada and broke the news, asking her to identify the body at a hospital.

"They took me into the room to identify Jose, and all I could see was this swollen, pale body under a sheet on the bed," Mrs. Estrada said. "There was a tube in the man's mouth, and tape over his mouth and eyes, so I couldn't really see his face." She held the dead man's hand and it felt like Estrada's. Then she saw that the clothes the man was wearing looked like her husband's. "I thought, 'This must be Jose,'" she said. "You're in such a state of shock, anyway, you're not thinking straight." Mrs. Estrada then signed the death certificate and joined other

grieving members of her family in a hospital waiting room. Jose Estrada, meanwhile, finished his jog and picked up some groceries on the way home. While putting away the groceries, his wife's boss called. "She [the boss] said, 'Jose! You're not dead. Someone called and said you'd had a heart attack and died! But you're not dead!'" Estrada recalled. Estrada raced to the hospital for a happy reunion. "After I stopped hugging him and laughing, I started crying," Mrs. Estrada said. "And I told him, 'If you ever die on me again, I'll kill you myself.'"



# It all depends on us

NATAN SHARANSKY

The scenes after the recent murderous attacks resembled a nightmare. Nevertheless, it is this reality and not the dream of "the New Middle East" that today dictates the rules of the game.

Even the super-summit of Sharm e-Sheikh cannot change these rules.

Among our government leaders, it is as if all those who have been lulled by droning speeches and rosy delusions have suddenly discovered that the reality and the dream are not one and the same.

It is certainly easy to criticize the government. For me especially so, since I am one of the founding members of Peace Watch, which monitors daily Palestinian adherence to the Oslo accords.

Numerous times our organization, which is comprised of members from all shades of the Israeli political spectrum, reported that the Palestinians were completely ignoring the Oslo provisions; several times, US congressional committees issued warnings based on these reports; and several times the visionaries of the new Middle East brushed off these warnings, claiming that only a legally elected government, not American Jews or the Israeli opposition, could determine whether Arafat was good or bad.

I could also criticize the government for another reason: As the only democratic country in the Middle East we needed to ensure that the extent of our concessions corresponds to the degree of democracy on the other side of the negotiating table.

This position too was mocked, the gist being: "You mean we must wait another 100 years?"

The fresh graves of our loved ones, not intellectual arguments, remind us of the consequences of blurring the boundaries between a totalitarian regime and a democracy.

Yes, it is not difficult to criticize the government - but it alone is not at fault. If only the government were to blame, the solution would be simple: Either it mends its ways, or it is replaced. The elections are not far off. But the problem is far more complex.

The problem stems from ourselves, from a weariness and weakness that has been accumu-

lating for decades. From a human perspective it is very understandable: For how much more war, death and destruction can one bear?

We could grapple with the sacrifice only so long as we had vision, purpose, and an understanding of the context and the significance of our presence here.

But when the Zionist vision began to be replaced by the idea of becoming a "normal" nation, one "like any other," fatigue set in, along with the desire to find

After the triumphs of Zionism, after we succeeded in taking our fate into our own hands, we can see the Zionism of the "new Jew," divorced from his traditional Jewish roots, vanishing in front of our eyes, and replaced by post-Zionist fatigue.

HOW CAN we overcome this? And what will the unity of which we so often speak - without results - look like?

Are we talking about the momentary unity of the battlefield under fire, or rather between the enemy's living bombs? And beyond that? Is it the unity of bus travelers striving to reach the last stop at any price - or of people striving to ensure that this stop will not be the last?

The bombs in Tel Aviv, Ashkelon and Jerusalem did not blow up our country. They merely exploded our false dream about the new Middle East.

In the real Middle East, not where "faxes blur the borders," but in the place where we live, there is still a need for borders: for security borders, borders between democracy and anti-democracy, between "holy land," and land that is less holy.

But there are boundaries which are equally important, that limit the spiritual space in which we live. Because these limits depend on answers to the questions, "Who are we?" and "Where are we headed?"

There is no doubt that the government must act immediately, just as there is no doubt that its actions must be more aggressive. Nor is there any doubt that it must restore to the Jewish nation a feeling of sovereignty in its own land, sovereignty not bound by the good graces of any state, regime or dictator, even one that behaves amicably.

But to restore the emotional health of the nation and move forward, we - veteran Israelis and new immigrants (those already here, and those who still intend to come) - must strengthen our spiritual unity on the basis of our spiritual power, our history and our values.

The bottom line: It all depends on us.

## Only we can defeat the weariness that threatens to drain our essence as Jews

any safe shore, no matter where.

After all, how long can we continue to swim? Even more important - why should we continue?

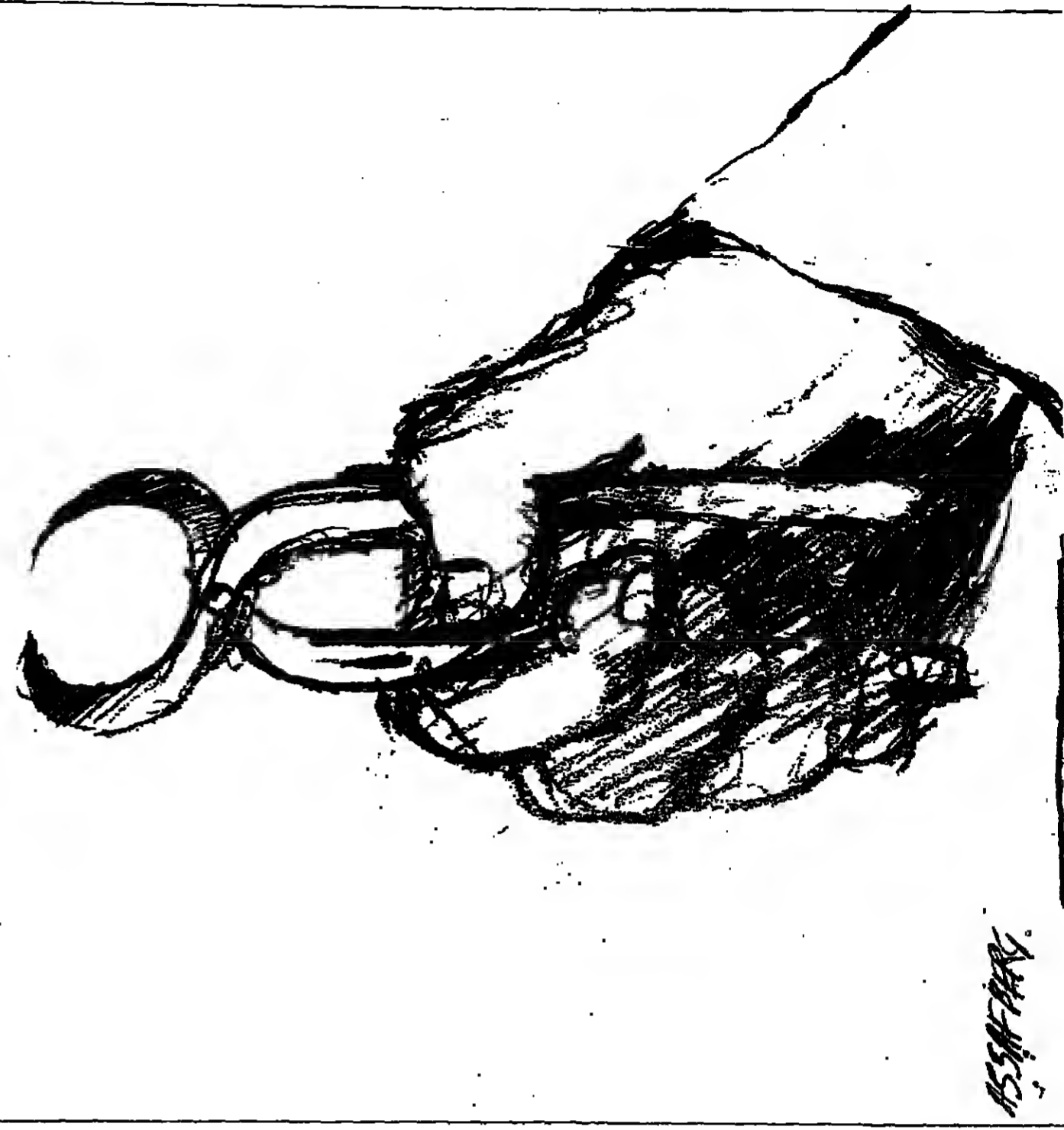
It is precisely this weariness that bred in some politicians the illusion of a New Middle East, in which there is no room for a unique Jewish people with its unique Jewish history going back thousands of years, in which the Law of Return is replaced by a simple immigration law; in which the Ingathering of the Exiles is supplanted by a completely different idea - "the unified Semitic expanse."

The government's weakness is merely a reflection of our own weakness, of our tiredness, our own loss of historical direction. And, as always at moments like these, there is the desire to escape to the deceptive world of delusions, to a life of conspicuous consumption, and a new world order that will bring happiness to all, Jew and non-Jew.

The participation of many Jews in the Russian Revolution and their desire to "bring light" to the entire world stemmed from weakness, despair and a wish to escape from the shtetl and be accepted in the world of "progressive humanity."

We know very well where that led for the Jews, and for the entire world. Now it is happening to us again - this time in our own land.

The writer is chairman of the *Isra'el Ba'alyha* movement.



# A process that mocks justice

ESTHER WACHSMAN

We were the model Israeli family.

Two young students at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem - one American, one Israeli - both children of survivors of the ovens of Europe, met and married in 1970.

We set up house in Jerusalem, had seven sons, worked hard to buy our own home and believed that this was the place to raise proud, strong, believing Jewish children.

In October 1994, after being kidnapped and held hostage for six days by Hamas terrorists, our third son Nachshon was brutally murdered.

The entire world held its breath that week beginning October 9, Jew and non-Jew alike prayed for Nachshon's safety and release.

Governments around the world intervened; 17,000 people from all corners of the earth sent us letters.

We supported the peace process. My husband Yehuda was present at the signing of the peace treaty with Jordan, just days after our seven-day period of mourning ended. We sat in the Knesset that same October, as President Clinton addressed our countrymen, and our family personally.

We yearn for peace - indeed, we pray for peace three times a day, every day of our lives. Yet terror remains a part of our lives. Our children go to school each morning, and we don't know if they will come home safely.

The man who masterminded our son's kidnapping walks the streets of Gaza freely - indeed he was a member of a negotiating team with the Palestinian Authority who met with the approval of our government.

This is an obscenity, a mockery, and a travesty of justice. It is a distortion of the concept of peace. When terrorists who wantonly spill innocent Jewish

blood are turned into heroes and leaders of the new Palestinian entity, this is not a peace process I can continue to support.

Our very language has become warped. Victims of terrorism are called victims of peace. "Settlers," once known as pioneers, have been labeled "a cancer in our midst." Rabbis have been called "ayatollahs," and religious Jews referred to as "the Khomeini element." Terrorists are often termed "freedom fighters," and Israel, in Yasser Arafat's words, is

kill Jews - any Jew, anywhere, at any time.

This is their ideology. They are committing crimes against humanity, and we believe that they, and their commanders and supporters, must be hunted down as zealously as we have hunted down Nazi war criminals.

Jewish blood must be seen to have value. Is it conceivable that in our own independent Jewish state we should still be hostage to our enemies' lust for Jewish blood?

race toward national suicide, where we would be left with some kind of peace - but no country and no people. You don't sit and discuss peace while bombs are exploding over your head.

The statement about fighting terror as if there were no peace process and continuing to pursue peace as if there were no terror is an oxymoron. It is totally unacceptable. We are fighting for our lives as a people, for our survival.

What has become of us, that model Israeli family? What has become of my dream for the future of my children?

One of my sons will never reach adulthood. Will the others share my dream of living as proud, strong, free and believing Jews, safe in their land?

I can say sincerely and unequivocally that despite our own personal pain and anguish, we shall never give up hope.

Our people have overcome unspeakable horrors. Through our deep faith in our right to live in this God-given land, we shall overcome this black period in our history as well.

Our enemies must be made to understand that we are here to stay forever - hopefully in peace; but, if necessary, by war. Never again will we surrender our country and go into exile.

The writer is the mother of Nachshon Wachsman, slain by Hamas terrorists on October 14, 1994.

## Despite our own personal pain we continue to believe in peace - but not in a race toward national suicide

# Media's role as tribune

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

THE media, printed and electronic, has a vital role to play in a modern democracy. With regard to the political process, its role, like that of the judiciary, is supervisory and critical. In a sense, both the media and the court need no master other than their own professional self-image.

But that is where the comparison ends. This week, under the shadow of the Hamas terror, Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, speaking at a ceremony for installing new judges, emphasized that the role of the judiciary in a time of crisis is to represent the basic values of the nation, without regard to popularity. The role of the media, on the other hand, is apparently to represent the transient mood of the nation, with a close watch on the ratings.

The political role that the newscasters have assumed is that of tribune - defender of the people - or, to the words of ITV's anchorman Haim Yavin (*Ha'aretz*, March 11, 1996), "to express something of the emotions of our clients - the broad public."

This self-defined role is problematic in periods of tranquility. In times of crisis, it is a formula for disaster.

As a leading authority, Prof. Pina Lahav, has pointed out, the "self-images of the press are contradictory. On the one hand, the press is a political and commercial organ in a market society. On the other hand, the press is a neutral and objective medium." These contradictions are particularly critical in the electronic media.

The role of tribune of the people is neutral, in the sense that it favors neither left nor right. However, it has an ideology all its own - the ideology of arrogance.

The tribune of the people, as the role is played on Israel TV, knows not only the public's emotions, but its thoughts as well. How this knowledge is acquired is a trade secret. While TV newscasters have no better idea of what people think and feel than do the rest of us, they most certainly have a better chance to make their perceptions come true.

Thus, in the hours and days following the Dizengoff Center bombing, we heard that the people want a national unity government, that they want a full-time defense minister, that they want immediate drastic military action, and so forth. These determinations were pronounced sometimes as fact, preceding questions in interviews, and sometimes as queries, in a tone of voice which left no doubt that the interviewer knew the

tribune is neutral, his debunking is not limited to the government in power, but extends to the opposition as well, which is treated almost as though it were a government in exile.

This arrogance is dangerous, because its effect is the delegitimation of the political system as a whole. It strikes at confidence in government - not in this government or the one that will succeed it, but in the political process as such.

Surely the disrespect displayed toward the prime minister by the TV correspondent the night of the Tel Aviv outrage was the playing

out of a role, not simply boorish, unmanly conduct. And what can be said of the decision to switch the broadcast to a roving reporter, with nothing particular to report, in the middle of the prime minister's press conference? Worse was to come.

The confrontational model of the tribune is easily adapted to a form of courtroom cross-examination. This fits into a journalistic tradition that spans Hecht and MacArthur's *The Front Page* and Woodward and Bernstein in *Watergate*.

It naturally appeals to Ilana Dayan, a highly gifted young jurist. Whether the style of investigative journalism has any place in an interview with the chief of general staff in the midst of a major national emergency is another matter. In any event, a prosecutor who examined a witness the way Dayan examined Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak would be told to stop badgering the witness.

Dayan goes after her subject with the fury of a female rottweiler. This has unfortunate consequences for her TV image. The brilliant jurist gets lost. What comes across on the screen is the hitch.

Israel's political leaders should take a lesson from Rafael Eitan. Faced with an impossible situation on ITV's impossible talk show *Popolitica*, he simply got up, removed the microphone, and moved off camera.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

## In its arrogance it delegitimizes the entire political system

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# Forbes abandons Republican race

WASHINGTON (AP) - Steve Forbes has decided to abandon the Republican presidential race, campaign and Republican sources said. Forbes planned an announcement yesterday evening in Washington, they said.

The decision came the day after the millionaire publisher was trounced by Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole in the seven "Super Tuesday" primaries.

Forbes had vowed earlier to stay in the race through next Tuesday's Midwestern primaries.

But after spending much of the day closeted in a Washington hotel room with advisers, Forbes accepted their judgment that the chances for a victory in Illinois, Ohio, Michigan or Wisconsin were bleak, gave Dole's big lead.

Dole's 20th consecutive primary victory and his surge through "Super Tuesday" virtually guaranteed him the Republican party's presidential nomination.

Dole's other Republican opponent, Pat Buchanan, said he will fight it out to the finish and isn't "looking for any deal" with Dole in exchange for stepping aside.

"Why give up a battle of ideas simply because you're behind in delegates?" Buchanan asked on NBC television. "Bob Dole has no ideas, no agenda, no vision."

Meanwhile, President Clinton clinched his Democratic nomination by topping the required majority of delegates with results from Hawaii party caucuses. The milestone came even before Clinton has formally announced his candidacy.

Dole, for his part, has started

doing what assumed nominees do - make it easier for lingering rivals to give up the battle by promising to heed their messages and their constituencies.

"We've listened and we've heard strong messages," the Senate majority leader said in an interview, acknowledging Forbes' theme of economic growth and Buchanan's concern for the economic anxiety of working Americans.

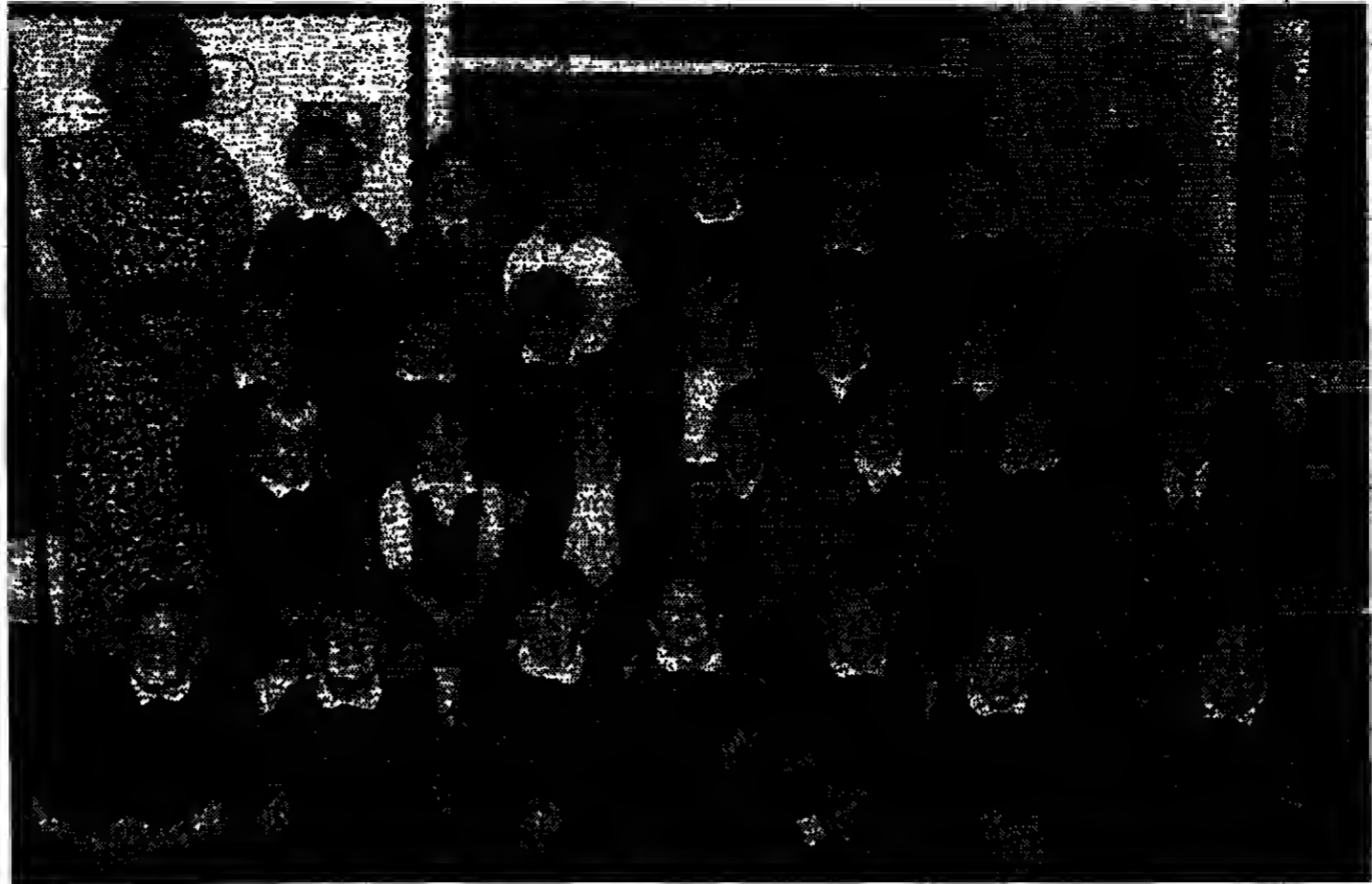
"It is time to come together now and put our ideas together and build a strong agenda for November," Dole said. His rivals' withdrawals would take from the airwaves a stream of anti-Dole messages and unite the party behind him.

Dole won solid majorities in all seven states that voted Tuesday except Louisiana, where his margin was 47 percent to Buchanan's 33 percent and Forbes' 13 percent. Dole won by 57 percent in Florida, a battleground state in the fall.

Forbes finished third or worse everywhere but Florida, where he was winning 20 percent to Buchanan's 18 percent. In Tennessee, Forbes even trailed former governor Lamar Alexander, who dropped out last week.

The next round of primaries occurs Tuesday in Ohio, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin.

With Dole now almost assured the nomination, the fall battle begins at once. What makes it unusual is that both the incumbent and his challenger have the power to use the machinery of government to affect their political fortunes.



Teacher Gwen Mayor pictured with her class of five and six-year-old pupils.

(Reuters)

# Britain grieves for slain children

News agencies  
DUNBLANE, Scotland

A HEADMASTER told yesterday of the "absolute hell" he found in the gymnasium of a school where 16 of his pupils lying dead or dying on the floor.

"I am deeply, deeply shocked and I still cannot believe it happened," said Ron Taylor, headmaster of Duoblae Primary School in central Scotland.

"What I saw in that gymnasium is a sight I will never ever forget."

Britain was in mourning as the survivors tried to piece together exactly how Thomas Hamilton, a disgraced former Scout master obsessed with young boys and guns, walked into the school and fired on 28 youngsters starting a physical education lesson.

The smiles of the 28 posing for their first school picture shone out across newspaper front pages yesterday. The effect was more heart-wrenching than any report on the evening news that 16 of them had been killed.

"Politics is silent today. We grieve. We hope that this dark shadow can, in time, be lifted," Labor Party leader Tony Blair

said during a subdued prime minister's question time in the House of Commons.

"What happened yesterday cannot be understood, must not be forgotten," Prime Minister John Major said.

The government announced that Queen Elizabeth II and Princess Anne would visit the town Monday, and that a senior Scottish judge had been appointed to conduct an official inquiry into all aspects of the tragedy.

The shooting was the worst in British history. Police said former youth worker Hamilton walked through the school's front entrance just after 9:30 a.m., armed with four handguns. He headed through the dining room, past the assembly hall and into the gym.

There, he opened fire and killed 11 girls and five boys, all aged 5 and 6, and their teacher, Gwenie Mayor, 45. Twelve others were wounded, several badly, including a 5-year-old boy who

was shot three times. Only one pupil in the room was not shot.

"There were little hodies in piles dotted around the room and items of children's clothing like shoes ... around the floor," said the first ambulance man to reach Duoblae Primary School.

"The strange thing ... was the virtual silence that we encountered as we walked in. Children were just sitting there in total shock with bullet wounds to their limbs and bodies, unable to cry out or speak," John McEwen told *The Sun* newspaper.

Residents of this close-knit, bucolic town at the edge of the Scottish Highlands placed flowers, cards, teddy bears and other toys on the sidewalk outside the school, where frightened parents had wanted to find out if their children were among the dead.

One card with the flowers read: "May God take better care of you than this world ever can. Everybody knows at least one

family who's involved," said Moira Pope. Five-year-old John Petrie, who lived next door, was among the dead.

Dr. Kathryn Morton, on the staff of Stirling Royal Infirmary where many of the wounded were treated, learned that her 5-year-old daughter Emily was among the dead, said Dr. Jack Beattie.

Authorities said the 700-pupil school would be closed this week.

The ambulance man said it appeared that Mayor had tried to shield the children from the bullets. "She was directly in front of a group of children who were all beyond hope," McEwen said, who called the scene a "medieval vision of hell."

"One boy of about five was sitting on the floor looking confused and shocked pointing at a bullet hole in his arm," he was quoted as saying. "He obviously couldn't grasp what had happened and was so shocked he couldn't cry. His arm was hanging limp and useless; at his side and he looked up at me as if he was pleading for an explanation."

# Terrorist attack kills 7 in Bahrain

SITRA, Bahrain (AP) - In the most savage attack to date on this low-crime Gulf island, seven Bangladeshis were killed yesterday in an arson fire at an Asian restaurant in an impoverished Shiite Moslem village that is a hotbed of anti-government opposition.

Only hours earlier, another arson fire destroyed the inside of a restaurant frequented by Europeans on the western edge of Manama, the Bahraini capital.

No casualties were reported in the attack on Robert's, a hangout for Western expatriates, near Sanahis, another Shiite village where opposition groups are active.

No arrests were made in Wednesday's and yesterday's attacks, which marked an escalation in the violence in this central Gulf island.

Bahrain, a financial center and home to a major US naval base in the Gulf, has been wracked by political unrest in recent months as Shiite opposition groups staged protests and security forces cracked down, arresting hundreds.

The latest arson was near-identical in execution in both cases, according to witnesses and government statements.

At about 6 a.m. five masked people poured gasoline at the entrance to a Bangladeshi restaurant in Sitra just southeast of Manama, authorities said, citing witness accounts.

Then the arsonists threw Molotov cocktails into the restaurant, starting a blaze that surged through the one-floor structure and gutted it.

A Bangladeshi Embassy official said all seven were Bangladeshi workers.

Bahraini Shiites resent the presence of foreign expatriates from the Indian Subcontinent, accusing them of taking jobs away from them. Some also accuse them of working as police informants.

# S. African soldier: Bad intelligence caused massacre

DURBAN (Reuters) - Bad intelligence was to blame for the death-squad massacre of 13 people, five of them children, in an operation intended to strike at opponents of white rule, a South African court was told yesterday.

apartheid-ruled South Africa's military to sustain white rule.

"The intelligence I received indicated that only Victor Ntuli would be there on that night and that there would be a United Democratic Front (UDF) meeting before," Opperman told the first trial of apartheid-era leaders.

"It was an unfortunate fiasco. It was an operation which went wrong," soldier Johan Opperman told the Durban Supreme Court, where former defense minister Magnus Malan and 19 others stand accused of the 1987 massacre in KwaZulu-Natal province.

Opperman said he believed black activists would be present at the house when the "hit" was sanctioned as an operation by

Cross-examined, Opperman conceded his personal definition of a target was so wide that even children could fall within it.

"If a primary school child had received training, yes he would've been a target. A child with an AK-47 is just as dangerous as someone who has left school."

# Croatians talk federation in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - Top Croatian officials visited Sarajevo yesterday for talks on shoring up Bosnia's Muslim-Croat Federation, crumbling cornerstone of the Dayton peace plan.

Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Graic and Prime Minister Zlatko Matosevic arrived amid rising political tensions reflected in disputes like one which has erupted over the color of uniforms Croat police will wear in the mixed Croat-Muslim force patrolling former Serb suburbs of Sarajevo.

Bosnia's Muslim acting President Ejup Ganic yesterday played down the gravity of the rift. "I wouldn't call it a political crisis. What we have to do is have one kind of police, one kind of uniform, in each canton (of the federation)."

NATO peacekeepers showed impatience with such apparently trivial disputes.

"The success of the peace agreement depends entirely on the cohesion of the federation and at the moment the parties appear to be making few substantive efforts to make it work," Major Simon Haselock, a spokesman for the NATO-led Implementation Force, said yesterday.

The former Serb suburb of Ilidza, whose takeover by the federation triggered an anarchic spasm of looting and arson by departing Serbs followed by looting and intimidation by incoming Muslim gangs, was calmer but still tense yesterday.

UN police were still receiving calls for help from the few Serbs left in the area, now being terrorized by the newcomers after earlier bravado threats from

Serb separatists to stay on in the first place, police spokesman Alexander Ivankovic said.

In the inner-city district of Grbavica, the last area still in Serb hands and due to be handed over on March 19, there were fires overnight and IFOR troops had to defend a warehouse of the UN refugee agency UNHCR from looters.

Serbs ceremoniously carried away the wooden cross and bell from a makeshift orthodox church, set up in a former fish shop in Grbavica, yesterday, and took it towards territory due to stay in Serb hands under the Dayton agreement.

"This is the end, the symbolic end, of Grbavica," said a Serb woman who said she had lived there for 34 years and was about to flee, like most other Serbs.

Tens of thousands of Serb refugees from Sarajevo have been directed by Serb authorities to areas of eastern Bosnia emptied of Muslims and Croats by Serb "ethnic cleansing" early in the 3 1/2 year Bosnian war.

The Bosnian Serb news agency said yesterday 3,900 Serbs had been resettled in Brcko, a town in a sensitive, still disputed corridor of Serb territory in northeast Bosnia, and more were expected from Grbavica.

International officials have warned that the resettling of Serbs in such towns, often in the former homes of Muslims and Croats, will make it impossible to fulfill the Dayton pact's goal of allowing refugees to return to their homes.

# Taiwan's president visits islands near Chinese military exercises

TAIPEI (AP) - Amid signs China may be spreading its war games to a new area, Taiwan's president flew to islands near the military exercises yesterday and said Chinese leaders are "scared to death" of Taiwanese democracy.

Wearing a tan windbreaker and sneakers, the 73-year-old Lee appealed for unity and reminded the islanders of his efforts to democratize Taiwan politics.

"These are the things the Chinese Communists dare not do - political liberalization, freedom and democracy," he said. "They see freedom and democracy and they are scared to death."

China accuses Lee, head of a Nationalist government that fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war to Mao Tse-tung's Communists, of discarding their shared doctrine of reunification.

The war games started Tuesday, and have pushed tensions between the two sides to their worst since the late 1950s, when Taiwan traded artillery harrages with China from islands near the mainland coast.

Schoolchildren held annual air raid drills yesterday at some Taiwanese primary schools, timed to coincide with China's eight days of missile tests near Taiwan.

China test-fired three missiles Friday and a fourth on Wednesday. There were no reports of missiles fired yesterday, a day before the launches were due to end.

At the Nanmen School in central Taipei, children were led to a ground-floor corridor and shown how to crouch and cover their faces. Schools that have bomb shelters are using them in practices. Despite reassurances the government can repel any Chinese attack, many Taiwanese have been hoarding food and buying US dollars to move their money out of the country.

Up to \$4 billion has left Taiwan, Central Bank governor Shu Yuan-dong said in a television interview from New York, where he is visiting the Federal Reserve Bank.

Shu urged Taiwanese to slow their rush to convert savings into US dollars, but promised to supply as much currency as they wanted.

We regret the passing of  
**BERTRAM H. JOSEPH**  
scientist, poet and writer  
He will be missed by his friends and family.

A memorial meeting for the late  
**LEON SHALIT**  
will take place on  
Friday, March 22, 1996, at 10:30 a.m.  
at the Hebrew Union College,  
13 King David Street, Jerusalem.  
His friends are invited to participate.

The unveiling of the tombstone in memory of our beloved  
**ERNEST (אליעזר) BRAUN** ז"ל  
will take place on Tuesday, March 19, 1996, at 2 p.m., at the Hayarkon cemetery.  
Mourners will meet at the entrance.  
Sophie Braun

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father and brother  
**YIZHAK ISAAC ERDYNAST**  
of Australia  
The funeral will take place today, Friday, March 15, 1996, at 11 a.m. at the Mount of Olives Cemetery, Jerusalem  
Mourning by:  
His Wife, Dora Erdynast  
His Daughters, Ruth Feiglin, Helen Gidansky  
His Brother, Shlomo Erdynast (Australia)  
Shiva at 73 Sderot Weizmann, Tel Aviv

**SAMUEL FRADEN**  
beloved husband of Sarah  
passed away on March 11, 1996  
"For there the Lord commanded the blessing, life for evermore."  
Sarah Fraden-Lieberman

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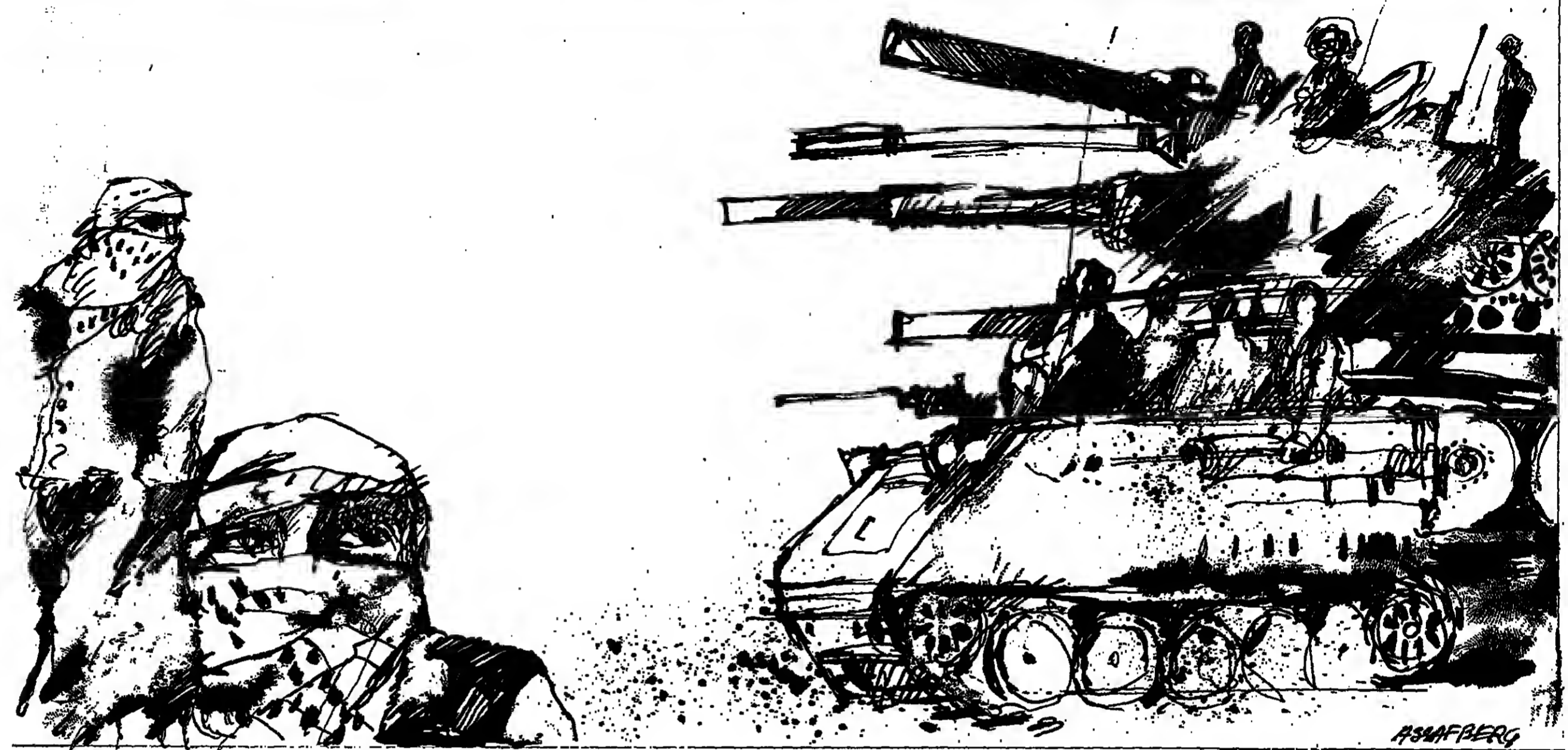
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The Jerusalem Post  
Terrorist attack kills 7 in Bahrain

# NEWS IN FOCUS

Friday, March 15, 1996



## The war against Hamas: How far can we go?

**A**FTER the carnage of the recent suicide bombings, there were those who wanted to see columns of tanks rolling into Gaza and battalions of crack infantry units blowing up Arab houses, with or without the terrorists hiding in them.

Outside the heavily guarded Ministry of Defense in Tel Aviv, just hours after the Dizengoff suicide bombing, a seething crowd demonstrated and shouted "We want war!" and "We want revenge!" At least one placard advocated "The Final Solution" for Hamas.

Inside, Prime Minister Shimon Peres declared an "all-out war" against Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists and announced the formation of an anti-terrorism task force to be headed by the newly appointed head of the General Security Service, Ami Ayalon, with sweeping powers to consolidate Israel's response.

But how can an open, civilized nation such as Israel grapple with the dilemma posed by terrorists who place little value on their own lives and won't play by our rules? How far can the country let this war take it without bending the rules of the democratic society which the IDF purports to reflect?

If the country's leaders have declared a war, then are they going to unleash the might of the IDF war machine?

"If you use your imagination," said one senior officer, "anything is possible; from leveling refugee camps with artillery fire to napalming the countryside. The only thing holding us back is our decision to abide by a peace agree-

ment. That, and our consciences."

After the Dizengoff attack, former defense minister Ariel Sharon called for Israel to take back control of the territories handed over to the Palestinians and to deport the extended families of the suicide bombers. Others, like Yizhak Mordechai, a former major-general and current Likud candidate for the Knesset, went further, saying that refugee camps should be sealed off.

There was even talk of evacuating and bulldozing whole villages which supported Hamas terrorists.

In their declaration of war against the Islamic militants, Israeli leaders and senior generals hinted that military action would have no bounds.

"Militarily there is no problem in returning to Gaza, to bomb it from the air, rain artillery on it. But there is a limit even in a declared war," said one senior field commander.

"If we came upon a house where a terrorist is hiding we would have no problem wiping it out with a missile," said another top officer.

"But we won't shell refugee camps. We won't erase villages. The army hasn't done that for 45 years. Even in war, the IDF can't put its humanity aside."

**BUT FOR** the moment, Israel, with the Middle East's most advanced military — and some of its most sophisticated intelligence — gadgets, seems powerless, frustrated and impotent to stop Islamic fundamentalist terror.

Those responsible for combating Hamas terrorists say their efforts have been thwarted because the

### The peace agreement, political considerations and basic Jewish values limit the military options, reports Defense Correspondent Arie O'Sullivan

intelligence-gathering capability was gutted after Israel handed Gaza and Palestinian areas of Judea and Samaria over to the PLO.

In what would better be described as a police action, the army has so far responded by rounding up some low-level Hamas figures and hauling in a few weapons and some inflammatory material. And mosques are no longer off-limits to military searches.

Furthermore, for the first time since the intifada waned in 1993, the army has blown up the home of at least one suspected terrorist and sealed the homes of nine others and their families. It intends to blow them up too, but is waiting for the High Court of Justice to clear the way after the resident families petitioned against the demolitions.

"We cannot go beyond the law," said OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran. "But on the other hand, Israel has the ability to make the laws," he said, implying that the decision on the method of combating terrorism lies at the government's feet.

Biran and other senior officers have hinted that Israel's long secu-

arity arm may also tap the shoulders of terrorists in the PLO-run areas and abroad.

So far, the government has sealed the territories under Palestinian control and pressured PLO chief Yasser Arafat to hunt down and destroy the Hamas military wing, Izzadin Kassam. But a major action, no matter how limited, would severely undermine Arafat's rule and credibility. And Israel knows there is no substitute for Arafat.

BRIG.-GEN. Ya'acov Amidror, the head of IDF military intelligence's assessment division, told the Knesset's Defense and Foreign Relations Committee this week that Yasser Arafat was strong enough, had enough public support and the intelligence material to virtually eliminate Islamic Jihad and seriously cripple Izzadin Kassam. "[Arafat] doesn't see himself helping Israel beyond thwarting attacks. A bloodbath in Palestinian society is worse in his eyes than terror in Israel," he said.

Nevertheless, Amidror said, Israel politically must tread lightly and refrain from actions which could unsettle Arafat. "In the current circumstances, there are no

other partners. If that alliance collapses, there will be utter chaos."

But Yigal Carmon, a former adviser to the prime minister on counterterrorism, said that IDF action against terrorists in the Palestinian areas is essential to curb terror, even if it means clashes with the PLO police.

For now, field commanders say their soldiers are chomping at the bit. They can't wait to be sent on a military operation against an enemy that hits them where it hurts most — at home. "Nothing would make them happier than action," said one officer.

As for the 30,000 armed Palestinian police, another senior officer dismissed them with bravado: "They will be taken care of and removed from the picture."

Most officers, however, agree that the likely military response in this full-scale war against Islamic fundamentalist terror will be pinpoint operations, possibly in Palestinian-ruled areas in the Gaza Strip and Judea and Samaria, and perhaps in neighboring countries.

Likud MK Eilahu Ben-Elissar, a former chairman of the Foreign Relations and Defense Committee, said Israel had struck at its enemies abroad in the past

and should not let anything, including peace agreements, bind its hands now.

"For much less than these warlike terrorist bombings we, in the past, were ready to penetrate into foreign countries, like Syria and Lebanon and the then-Jordanian-occupied Judea and Samaria, and the Egyptian-ruled Gaza Strip," he said. "So today, can Jericho or Gaza or Ramallah serve as a shelter for terrorist activity?"

"Obviously not. If we need to penetrate these territories, carry out actions there and then get out, then we ought to do it. We don't have to have any strings on our hands. You don't declare war without waging it," he added.

When three Soviets were seized as hostages in Beirut in October 1985, Russian agents apprehended a relative of the terrorists who belonged to the Islamic Liberation Organization, a coalition of extremist Moslem clergymen.

They castrated the relative and sent him home with a warning to release the Soviets immediately. They did.

This sort of barbarism, Ben-Elissar said, could never be adopted by the Jewish state.

"We are not going to change our moral standards or our Jewish norms and values," he said. But he added, "Neither is there going to be any life for the enemies of life. That is all."


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FEATURES

# 'Don't fight people who are fighting terror'

### The PA is doing the most against terror, Nabil Shaath tells Michael Widlanski in Sharm e-Sheikh



Nabil Shaath: "The PA is doing more than any government can do to stop terror."

**T**ERROR has raised its ugly head, and the Palestinian Authority (PA) is doing "more than it can" to stop it, which is more than can be said for Israel, the US and Iran, according to PA planning minister Nabil Shaath.

In an interview Wednesday outside the Sharm e-Sheikh summit headquarters, Shaath not only defended the PA but assailed Israel for not stopping terror and imposing collective punishment on the Palestinians.

"If you fight the people who are fighting terror, then you are in trouble," said Shaath, asserting that Israel was doing itself a disservice by attacking the PA and the PLO.

"The PA is doing more than any government can do to stop terror," said Shaath, the jocular adviser to PLO leader Yasser Arafat and the man who handled much of the negotiations between Israel and the PLO.

"You can't catch a suicide bomber, but we are catching the people who send the bombers," he said.

Shaath had no comment when asked about a statement on the PA's Voice of Palestine (VOP) last May 5 by PA Justice Minister Freih Abu Medein justifying the

retention of weapons by members of Hamas, responsible for four recent bomb attacks that killed 60 people.

He broke his silence, however, when asked whether VOP radio broadcasts and PBC (Palestinian Broadcast Corporation) commentaries urging the immediate establishment of a Palestinian state "as the only solution to terror" were attempts by the PA to exploit the Hamas attacks.

"This is a baseless Israeli charge. It is not fair," he said.

Asked about VOP's opening broadcasts on February 28 in which it said Izzadin Kassam denied any connection to the attacks in Jerusalem and Ashkelon, and also asserted, quoting "official sources," the bombings were the work of Moleket MK Rehavam Ze'evi "and the Israeli extreme right-wing organization Eyal," his response was fierce.

"This is all based on the selective collection of texts and quotes," said Shaath.

Shaath was also asked if the PA was really doing anything to capture and try leading Hamas planners such as Mohammed Deif, who according to Israeli intelligence met several times in recent months with PA Gaza

security chief Mohammed Dahlan.

"The Israelis had many months to capture Deif, and did they succeed in doing it?" he answered.

Regarding PA efforts to stop transfer of arms and money to Hamas and Islamic Jihad, Shaath said, "We all have to do more - all the world's countries - to stop

money from reaching Hamas. For example, the United States. Half the money that comes to Hamas is from the United States."

The PA minister said Iran was a great force behind Islamic terror, but brushed aside the notion that Syria, which allows Hamas and Jihad offices in Damascus, could do more to stop terrorism.

Both Shaath and Mahmoud Ahias (Abu Mazen), a member of the PLO executive committee, said they were pleased with the summit, but indicated they would only be sure once they could see tangible "fruit" for the Palestinians - increased aid and an end to the closure of the territories.

## Egypt hospital

ASIDE from the fact that it is a hospital, the Egyptian government has not yet decided whether to allow the head of the Egyptian government, Bill Clinton, to visit the hospital.

This is the first time since the very end of the 1990s that a major international figure has visited the hospital.

Lippert, who himself is a doctor, is planning to allow head of the Egyptian government, Bill Clinton, to visit the hospital.

Clinton, who is a doctor, is planning to allow head of the Egyptian government, Bill Clinton, to visit the hospital.

## Fear-vs-commitment dilemma hits Israel student programs

**I**N the aftermath of the recent terror attacks, in which two American youths were prominent among the victims, travel plans seem to be the new litmus test of devotion to Israel. Fear and parental pressure vie against Israel in a complicated, emotional equation.

A number of students at the Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University and the Jerusalem program of the Jewish Theological Seminary have returned to the States, while others are debating whether they will study overseas next year.

"A rabbinical student in our class was killed, so it's much closer to home," said Mitchell Malkus of Chicago. He was referring to Matthew Eisenfeld, a fellow second-year rabbinical student at the seminary's Jerusalem campus who was among the casualties of the Jerusalem bus bombing on February 25. "On the other hand, we are strong supporters of Israel, and in leaving a lot of us feel we would be abandoning Israel."

"We are going to be leaders of the Jewish community. If I am going to speak authoritatively

from a pulpit about the value of aliyah, well, I couldn't do that so well if I came home [because of the terror]," Malkus said.

At the seminary's main campus in New York, first-year rabbinical student Ben Begleiter has not yet decided if he will join his class, which is scheduled to study in Israel next year.

"I very much want to be in Israel next year, but I cannot do that without a sense of safety," said Begleiter, 24. "I don't want to go if I am going, thinking there's always the possibility that I won't go at the last minute, or that I'll go and then come right back."

His parents are leaving the decision up to him. "They are probably no more concerned about Israel than the fact that I am studying in New York," said Begleiter, of Kansas City. "I'm living a block away from Harlem."

At the seminary and other institutions, teachers and officials stress that those youths who return to or stay in the US should not feel ashamed. They echoed the senti-

MARILYN HENRY  
NEW YORK

ment of Rabbi William Lebeau, dean of the seminary's rabbinical school, who said: "Those who leave [Israel] are no less brave and no less committed to Israel."

But that message doesn't seem to be filtering down to many youths. Some students say they hesitate to express their anxiety for fear their friends will think less of them, even while they question how their apprehension affects their commitment to Israel.

"When everyone is standing in the hall acting so tough and saying, 'now we must go,' I stand there and don't say anything," said one young woman at a New Jersey Orthodox school who refused to be identified. "You think I'm really going to say I'd rather go to college here and be safe? I am sure a lot of them feel like me, but who's going to say it?"

ON THE other hand, the terror incidents have fortified the intentions of Hillel Moskowitz, a senior at the Frisch School in Paramus, New Jersey, which has lost two graduates - Sara Duker, class of 1991, and Alisha Flatow, class of 1992 - to terror attacks in Israel in the past year.

Moskowitz was originally single-minded. He was simply planning to study next year at Bar-Ilan University. Now, however, he has a dual purpose: to study and to send a message of support. "Not going sends a negative message," he said.

At offices servicing Israel academic and summer programs, organizers say it is too soon to tell what the impact of the terror attacks will be. These programs are currently entering the height of the registration season.

"There's no question there will be fewer people who want to go," said Micha Drori, of the Student and University Department of the World Zionist Organization in New York.

The decline will be hard to measure, because there is no way to calculate those people who decide against making the initial call for information. For example, Monday is usually a busy day for the toll-free hotline for Israel summer programs. The day of the Tel Aviv bombing, no one called, Drori said.

"It's a time of anxiety and soul-searching for many who facilitate Israel study programs and who encourage parents to send their children to Israel."

"I've had a pit in my stomach all week," said Jennifer Ely, assistant dean for overseas programs at Brandeis University.

This appears to be especially true for congregational rabbis, who promote Israel programs, then make arrangements for small numbers of youths with whom they have personal relationships.

Only a few weeks ago, Carol Davidson, the rabbi of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance in Beacon, New York, was delighted because a 15-year-old girl who had not expressed any interest in Jewish programs was suddenly excited about spending a high-school semester in Israel next year. "It's nerve-racking. I feel an incredible sense of responsibility."

"Granted, I could take a synagogue group to Ellis Island and we could all fall into the river and drown. It could happen, but..." she said, her voice trailing off.

"This student still wants to go to Israel. And I'd still say 'go.' But do I feel differently about it? Yes."

## Foreign students stand firm

BATSHEVA TSUR

**T**HE recent terrorist attacks have increased the determination of some foreign students to be here.

"Every incident like this causes me on the one hand to cry, and on the other hand to decide that I belong in Israel," Sara Stress, a youth-movement member in Los Angeles, wrote to the local Jewish Agency emissary the day after the Tel Aviv bombing.

There are currently more than 1,000 students, under the aegis of the Jewish Agency, attending six- to 12-month programs such as the Institute for Training Leaders from Abroad, the year course of Young Judea, and the Conservative movement's Netiv course. And not one has decided to go home.

"The parents are very worried, particularly those of children from Australia and South Africa who recently arrived here," says Shlomo Gravez, chairman of the Jewish Agency's Youth and Hehalutz Department. "They have been calling our emissaries in their home towns and we get a lot of reports of parents wanting the children to go back. But so far not one student has decided to return."

Gravez says that a number of steps have been taken to give the students a feeling of safety. "We know every minute where they are. They do not leave any of the institutes where they are studying without the permission of the security officer at that place. At present, we use very little public transport. We have rented our own buses."

A hotline connecting the students with their homes has been operated after every attack, to allay the parents' fears without delay, Gravez says. And the students' free days have been kept to a minimum so that they do not wander around the country alone. They have also been provided



with support services, he says.

"We have sent letters to all the emissaries and the students [asking them] to demonstrate solidarity," he says. "Sixteen Netiv graduates are expected here this week to express their support. Prospective students, parents and emissaries with questions can call us 24 hours a day at (02) 208557 during work hours and at (02) 256205 from 6 p.m.

"About 7,500 [16- to 18-year-olds] usually come for summer programs. We hope that when things return to normal we will reach those numbers."

"So far, the emissaries are optimistic. In Detroit, out of 240 registered, only two have so far canceled; in Canada - five or six out of several hundred. But registration has frozen since the attacks."

Only 250 new students have registered in the US and this is the season when they usually sign up.

Meanwhile, 400 short-term emissaries will go to the US this summer to work with the under-16s - double last year's figure.

"For the first time, there is an indication of maturity in the Jewish world," Gravez says. "It indicates a positive change in the Diaspora's attitude towards Israel."

He would like to see more students taking the attitude of Zuki Alec from Los Angeles, who said last week: "I am the last descendant of my family which was destroyed in the Holocaust and every incident like this stirs me on to express my Jewishness and my obligation to Israel loudly and clearly to everyone. Am Yisrael Hai."

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# Antiterror Inc.: The 'A' Team arrives

## American men and materiel have been airlifted to Israel, putting President Clinton's war on terror to work. Bill Hutman reports

**B**OB, a US government antiterror expert, was awakened in his Washington home by a late-night phone call last week, less than 24 hours after a Hamas suicide bomber killed 13 people outside Dizengoff Center in Tel Aviv.

"I hope you can pack quickly," the official on the other end said. "We've got you booked on a flight to Israel in two hours." That was last Tuesday morning.

Since then, Bob, who spoke on condition of anonymity, and a team of other antiterror experts with the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security, have been in Israel translating President Bill Clinton's promise for aid in the war on terror into concrete terms.

"I'm not a politician, but if anyone wants proof of the US government's commitment to helping Israel fight terror, they just have to look at us and how quickly we were sent here," Bob says, sitting in a Tel Aviv hotel lobby with a colleague from the bureau's Office of Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA).

ATA was founded in 1983 to provide assistance to friendly foreign countries facing a significant terrorist threat.

The office aims are "enhancing the antiterrorism skills of foreign police, law enforcement, and security officials... [and] providing a vehicle for continued contact and dialogue between US and foreign security officials."

Antiterror experts from other branches of the US defense establishment have also arrived here since the Dizengoff attack, including from the army and Central Intelligence Agency.

US sources say each "team" sent here serves a different security purpose: US Army officers work with the IDF, CIA staff with the Mossad and ATA experts with the police and the GSS. The overall aim is to cover the gambit of antiterror operations.

The ATA mission is straightforward: listen to Israeli security officials about their needs in the war on terror and make constructive suggestions. A shopping list of requests is to be brought back to the US, probably early next week, and senior

officials will decide how much to allocate.

ALL INDICATIONS from US and Israeli officials is that the Clinton administration will make good on its promise to help in the war against Hamas, and Israel will get much of what it is requesting. No estimate was available, however, on the total cost.

The Americans have held dozens of meetings with senior police, border police and GSS officials. They have also visited training installations, including of the elite police antiterror unit, and conducted field tours to see firsthand what is needed.

"The Israelis are experts in many areas that they don't really need our help in," Bob says. "Take the elite police antiterror unit. They're among the best in

the world. We can learn a lot from them.

"We listen to the Israelis, sometimes make suggestions, but in the end it's up to them what means they choose to fight terror," he says.

Bob is not new to Israel's war on terror. He says he has been here a dozen times. "John" was on a three-year stint here that ended in 1992. He served as a senior security officer at the US Embassy in Tel Aviv.

The two are also not new to fighting terror. They both served as US intelligence and counterterrorism agents in Lebanon in the early 1980s. John was wounded in the Beirut US Embassy bombing in 1983, in which over 200 Americans were killed.

"It was chaos in Beirut," John recalls. "We didn't know who was fighting who. There were so

many militias it was impossible to keep track of them all."

"You can't compare the situation there with here at all," he says. "There may have been car bombings in both places, but other than that, you're talking about two completely different situations."

Between them, Bob and John have done security work on virtually every continent, being assigned from Columbia to Northern Ireland to the Philippines. They said they had seen a lot of bloodshed in terror's wake and in the battles lost, and won, to stop it.

"I DON'T recall any situation like the one Israel faces today," Bob says. "Israel wants to fight terror, to build a separation line, but it also wants open borders. This will make fighting terror difficult."

"Israel could simply build a 'Berlin Wall' along its borders. But it doesn't want that. It wants to fight terrorism and at the same time keep open, democratic relations with the Palestinian Authority."

"There are technologies that can be employed to control a border," he says, "but they are not 100 percent foolproof."

The major request police have given the Americans is for high-tech equipment to use along the seam between Israel proper and the territories - roughly following the Green Line - and which the government has vowed to strengthen to prevent Palestinians from entering illegally.

Police want everything from radar equipment to more of the explosive detection devices the Clinton administration airlifted here last week to implement the separation plan, first proposed over a year ago by Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal.

The high-tech equipment needed for the separation plan to work carries a high price tag. That is one reason the Treasury blocked the plan when it was first pro-

posed. Now, ministry sources said, US help in acquiring the equipment will allow the plan to move forward.

Israel also wants Washington to provide explosives-detecting Labrador retrievers, considered the best in the world. Even before the recent terror wave, the US provided several such dogs to police.

"They are virtually 100 percent successful," Bob said.

Police will need the dogs and technology the US is offering, he added. "In my assessment, Israel is in store for more terror attacks. All the signs point in that direction," he said. There are also concerns that US sites in the country will be targeted by Hamas.

Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz revealed that Hamas planned an attack during the Clinton visit and that Israel even warned US security officials against planning events during the visit that would leave the president open to attack.

"We have clearly put ourselves on the line," Bob said. "We are identified as 'helping the Zionist enemy,' which makes us a target also."

# The man with the grisly task of identifying terror victims

## Jay Levinson deals with the sensitive procedure of examining human remains, Jennifer Friedlin writes

**F**OLLOWING every suicide bombing, eyewitness accounts of body parts strewn along the streets fill the morning's papers. While most readers can barely stomach imagining the destruction done to human bodies, Jay Levinson has spent the past 11 years analyzing every detail of victims' corpses.

As victim identification officer for the Israel Police, it's Levinson's job to take all the pre- and post-death evidence he can collect and identify the bodies of those killed in terrorist bombings.

"I'm there at the critical point of confrontation with the body," said Levinson, 46, a New Jersey native with a PhD in Nabatean Aramaic and an avid stamp collector.

In 1981, Levinson left his job as a document examiner in the CIA and moved to Israel. He joined the police force shortly after his arrival and began working for the division of victim identification (DVI) in 1985.

Now, instead of examining documents, he must deal with the sensitive procedure of examining human remains.

"At the time a family comes to look at a body, it's all pressure and agony, but I want [the procedure] to be right."

In order to ensure that the procedure goes smoothly, every step up until the point at which a family member or friend identifies the body must be meticulously executed.

Upon hearing that a terrorist has struck, Levinson goes immediately to police headquarters, gets a briefing on the attack and then drives out to the Jaffa-based state morgue, the L. Greenberg Institute of Forensic Medicine, known as Abu Kabir.

Approximately two to four hours after the attack - timing depends on the attack's distance from the morgue - the bodies and their severed parts start to

arrive. As the medical staff at Abu Kabir starts fitting them together, using DNA analysis and other scientific methodology, the police identification squad of some dozen people begins to collect postmortem information on the corpse to match it with pre-death information the family will give.

"Let's say a person has a moustache, so what?" said Levinson, noting that the commonness of moustaches and beards here makes such characteristics invaluable. "However, let's say a person has a tattoo on the ankle; now we're talking of something gaining importance."

Fingerprints are collected and dentists are on hand to take teeth imprints. As families and friends who suspect that their loved ones may have perished in the attack start entering the facility, the police ask them about any distinguishing marks. If need be, dentists' records are ordered and police go to the suspected victim's home to collect fingerprints.

Only after fingerprints, a genetic profile, a listing of identifying marks and dental evidence have been gathered - a process that can take several hours - and the police are as certain as they can be that the victim has been identified is the family called in for personal identification.

"We have never made a mistake and we don't intend to," Levinson said.

ON THE way out to Abu Kabir several days after the Dizengoff Center bombing, Levinson, who lectures internationally on victim identification, explained that the turning point for the DVI, which was established in 1985, came following the 1989 terrorist attack on bus 405. In that attack a terrorist took the wheel of the bus and overturned it into a ravine off the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway, killing 16 people.



Dr. Levinson in the dissection room in Abu Kabir's Forensic Institute. "At least I can say, after an incident, I've done something," he says.

When the division was set up, the police thought they would deal only with wartime disasters, and the army - which is responsible for identifying soldiers following a military incident - would deal with attacks on civilians. But, as Levinson explained, after the 405 attack the police realized the army was not equipped to deal with civilian atrocities.

"In the army, every soldier has an identification file," he said. "When a tank is sent out the officers know exactly who is in the tank. When Egged sends out a bus, no one knows who's on the bus."

Under the direction of Dr. Yosef Almog, director of identification and forensic science; Elie Shmelzer, chief superintendent of the field assistance group; and Levinson, the DVI has been institutionalizing a professional system for dealing with victim identification quickly and efficiently.

On a normal day, the morgue, previously the home of an Arab

sheikh, is a quiet place. Inside the small building, doctors and technicians work on corpses of those whose death is criminally suspicious. In the dark basement, five metal tables sit in three dark, sterile rooms - where a heavy smell of disinfectant and death hangs in the air.

As soon as an attack occurs, this quiet place erupts in activity. The staff of 40 quadruples, with volunteers, dentists and support staff descending on the area. Ambulances come racing down the street bringing in bodies and remains for evaluation. Concerned relatives, who have exhausted the possibility that their missing family member is not in any hospital, arrive at the morgue often hysterical with worry that their worst fears will be confirmed.

Over the years, those involved in victim identification have learned how to control the chaos and infuse the identification service with as much sensitivity as possible. Instead of taking family

members in to see the body, they are escorted by a rabbi, paramedic, social worker and police officer into a room with a video monitor that shows a picture of the deceased.

And, after realizing the basement space they had for questioning relatives meant the families would inevitably see victims' bodies, the police and the morgue's staff decided to use the Health Ministry's office next door for all interviews.

The recent wave of attacks has also triggered the awareness that police and morgue staff must always be ready. After the first bus 18 attack, the staff was lax about getting the place back into working order, said Yona Tenenbaum, Abu Kabir's administrative director. When the second bus 18 was hit, the doctors arrived and could not find their lab coats.

As a result, Tenenbaum said, there is now a special emergency closet constantly stocked with basic equipment.

ALTHOUGH the job of working with mangled, burnt and severed corpses would be unpalatable to most, Levinson said it has its rewards. "At least I can say, after an incident, I've done something."

"That desire to do something has led this Orthodox father of eight to travel the world in pursuit of perfecting victim identification tactics."

Following the 1988 terrorist attack on a Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, Levinson, then still a novice in the field, flew to the site to learn how squads there identified victims.

Last year, following the terrorist bombing of the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, Levinson, who is also chairman of the International Police's victim identification committee, brought a Spanish version of the questionnaire to help local authorities take information from the families.

And after a 1993 plane crash in Nepal, Levinson met with the wives of two Israeli victims, took physical descriptions and then flew to Nepal.

Although the victims' bodies were never found, Levinson worked to confirm via airline reservations and check-in records that these men were on the plane. He then asked local authorities to certify that under no circum-

stances could the men have survived. Levinson went through such lengths because he wanted the women to be able to carry on with their lives.

"For the sake of [preventing a woman from becoming an] *aguna* [a woman not allowed to remarry under Halacha], I had to get proof no one on the airplane could have survived the crash," Levinson said.

"As a religious Jew, I feel there's an obligation to do everything in coordination with Halacha. It's the job of the police to serve the public."

Although many of the families Levinson works with want to stay in touch with him, he said his presence is a constant, disturbing reminder of a traumatic period. For their sake, he cuts all contact with the families after the work is done.

As for keeping up his own morale, Levinson said he would not let a terrorist attack or the horrors he has seen keep him from going about his daily life.

But Levinson, who had white paint stains on his arms, admitted that following the recent spate of terrorist attacks and days and nights spent at Abu Kabir, he took a few days off for the mundane chore of housepainting.

"Sometimes you just want your biggest concern to be 'does the color take to the walls?'"

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# Frankly, my dear, Atlanta is well worth a visit

TOM GROSS

ATLANTA is billing itself as "The Next Great International City." It is already home to companies with worldwide impact, such as CNN and Coca-Cola; its airport is now the world's third busiest; final preparations for this summer's huge centenary Olympics are well underway; and, perhaps inspired by Scarlett O'Hara from *Gone with the Wind*, singer Madonna announced she may be moving there.

If so, she will join a host of other celebrities, such as Elton John and Whitney Houston, who have already made the city their principal or second home.

And to cap it all, a major new Jewish museum will open soon. Frankly, my dears, Atlanta is well worth a visit.

The dynamism projected by Atlanta's sleek, glass skyscrapers is combined with a leisurely spirit generated by the majestic columns, neatly-trimmed lawns and exquisitely laid-out flower beds of its big plantation-type houses.

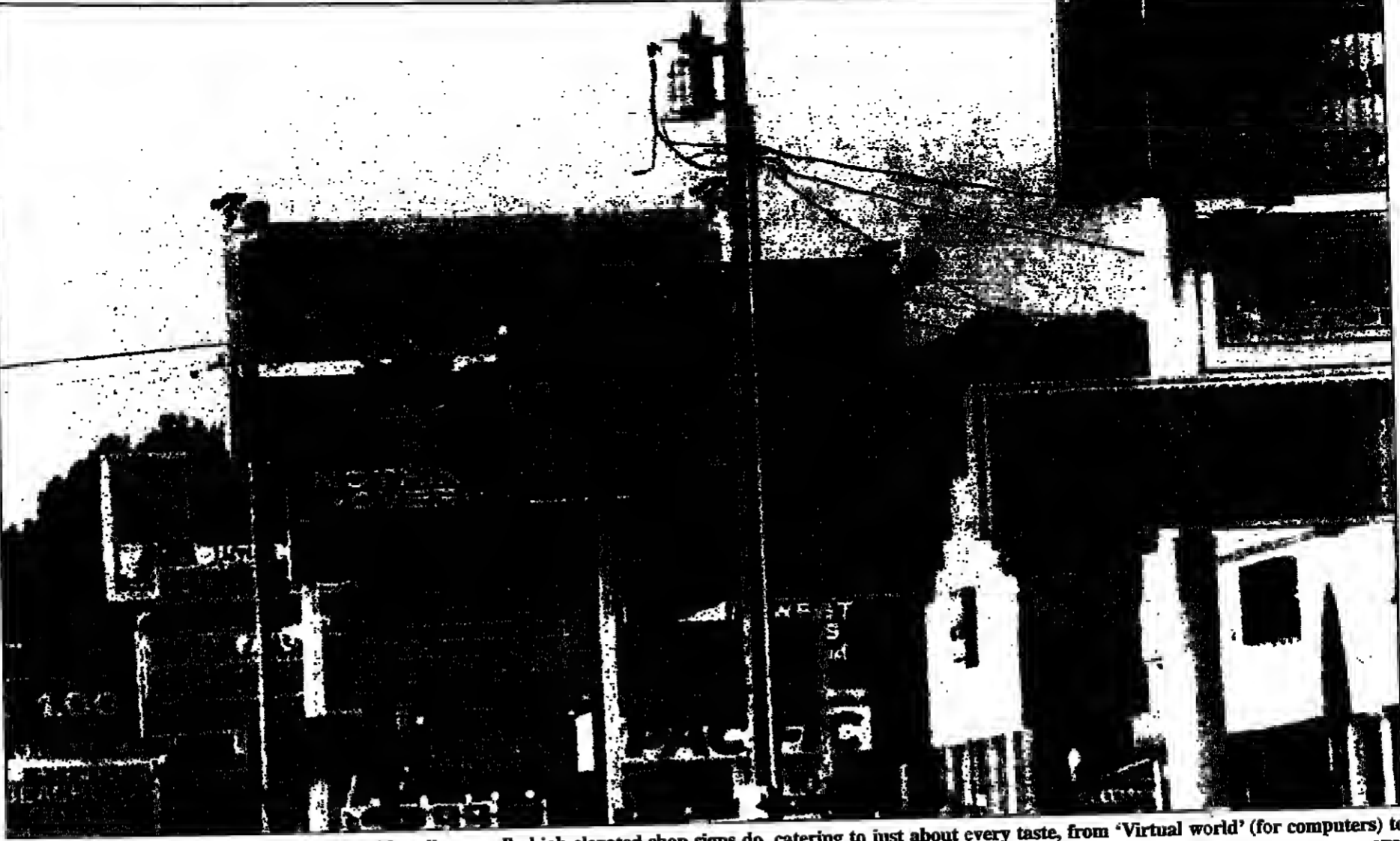
City refinement blends with Southern graciousness and hospitality, and while it is perhaps not worth specially visiting from Israel (unless, of course, you can make it to the Olympics), a two- or three-day stopover in this happening and rather charming city is well worthwhile if you are going to be in the States anyway.

To see the city, hiring a car is a must, since Atlanta is spread over a large geographical area, linked by freeways of up to six lanes in each direction, some with distinctly local names such as Jimmy Carter Boulevard and Bobby Brown Boulevard.

Completely reconstructed after it was razed to the ground by General Sherman's forces during the Civil War in 1865, Atlanta has long been a bustling commercial center. But it is also a very pretty city.

There is a stunning variety of skyscrapers, many the work of John Portman, the outstanding and innovative modern architect who almost single-handedly redesigned the Atlanta skyline. The freeways are lined with tall green pine and oak trees towering into the sky, and the city itself is clean, neat and very green, especially in spring, when the many flowers that dot the city bloom into life.

Atlanta's beautiful year-round warm weather adds to the feeling of gentility, which is reflected in the tendency to name things in



When tall trees are not lining the Atlanta sidewalks, equally high elevated shop signs do, catering to just about every taste, from 'Virtual world' (for computers) to 'Condom sense' (an adult shop).

Atlanta after the peach, Georgia's state symbol, though locals say that you never actually see a peach tree in the city.

There's a Peachtree center, street, road, circle, fountain, plaza, bowl, and the peach even forms the "o" in Georgia car license plates, except for the newest models, oo which the peach has been enterprisingly replaced by the Olympic flame.

While in the city, a visit to an all-American diner like the Waffle House - a genuine Southern institution, open 24 hours, and unfairly nicknamed "The Aahfull Waahfull" oo Saturday Night Live - is an experience oot to be missed.

AS YOU enter, it's hard to avoid movie scenes zipping across your mind such as the hold-up in *Pulp Fiction* and the fake orgasm in *When Harry Met Sally*, and inter-

acting with the waiting staff is an integral part of the dining experience.

Old-fashioned Southern good manners are much in evidence, and addressing the waitress as "Ma'am" is near compulsory.

Trying to adapt as well as pos-

sible to the local culture, I plucked up courage and said: "Ma'am, I'll have hash browns. Scattered, covered, chunked, topped and diced." My waitress complimented me in return. "You got it down pat," she said, and later bade me farewell with a cheery "See ya soon, y'all."

BESIDES the Jewish Heritage Museum, there are plenty of other places worth visiting. The Atlanta History Center houses interesting permanent exhibitions detailing the local past, from the Indian set-

tlements and cotton fields to civil rights and CNN.

And you can see the inner workings of the world's newest superpower by taking a CNN studio tour (every 15 minutes daily, but with limited numbers, so it's advisable to book ahead, phone 404-827-2300).

You can peer down into the newsroom while the station is on air and observe the technical and production wizards at work as they broadcast "to their viewers around the world." If you're there around lunchtime, you may get to appear as part of the audience on *Talkback Live*, filmed in the CNN building shopping co-course.

You can also tour the governor's mansion, a grand old house built in the Greek Revival Style (in the 1920s, but it looks older), and learn about the histo-

### Episodes from Jewish history

THIS June, a new Jewish Heritage Museum opens in Atlanta at the Sethu Center, 1440 Spring Street (Tel: 404-873-1661). It will house an extensive exhibition entitled "The Jews of Atlanta: From 1845 to the Present".

The exhibition, previously on show at the Atlanta History Center, is informative, interesting and colorfully presented. Besides exploring the community's considerable achievements in the city's arts and business life, it also details two of Atlanta's grim and episodic, the genuine lynching of Leo Frank in 1915 and a Christian anti-Semitism (Frank was posthumously pardoned in 1986) and the bombing of an Atlanta synagogue in 1958, after a rabbi had campaigned in support of black civil rights.

Also of particular interest is the interactive exhibition at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Center, which includes Carter's own handwritten letters to Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat during the Camp David peace negotiations.

## Airlines in Britain worried by violent passengers

THE four British passengers started attacking each other shortly after their holiday flight took off from Morocco. Soon they were locked in a vicious brawl which sent waves of panic through the aircraft.

But when the Royal Air Maroc jet eventually landed in Manchester the combatants were allowed to walk free.

"The fight was very distressing for everyone on board, but we had to let the four go. The airline couldn't believe it, nor could the passengers," said Kevin Hart, a senior police officer at Manchester airport.

A loophole in British law means authorities cannot prosecute those who commit offences on board foreign-registered aircraft, short of kidnapping or murder.

Hart, who is also chairman of the Association of UK Airport Police Commanders, is worried about officers' inability to act at a time when airlines around the world are reporting a growing number of violent in-flight incidents.

Major foreign airlines operating in Britain are so fed up at seeing troublemakers walk free that they have banded together to try to push a bill closing the loophole through parliament.

Peter North, chief executive for the Board of Airline Representatives UK, says something must be done before a violent

passenger causes a plane to crash. "In one sense we've been lucky. No one has opened an emergency exit at 30,000 feet and downed an aircraft," he said.

Airlines have traditionally been unwilling to publicize violent incidents for fear of deterring potential passengers but unofficial evidence suggests the number of cases is climbing.

Qantas security manager Reginald Brothers, one of the prime movers behind the private bill, said he was spurred into action after a British man assaulted one of the airline's stewards on a flight in 1993, breaking a cheekbone and several teeth.

The airline pursued the case for two years through the civil courts before giving up.

"The cases will continue and we should be in a position to pursue complaints in a criminal court even if we only get one a year," Brothers said.

The foreign airlines say Britain should have taken advantage of a 1967 convention signed in Tokyo by most of the world's major nations which paved the way for signatories to introduce tough laws to clamp down on extra-territorial offences.

A British Home Office spokesman said airlines' representations were being considered as part of an internal review on the question of jurisdiction. An initial report is expected in the next few



months. "The Tokyo convention permits us to introduce jurisdiction, but doesn't oblige us to," he said.

Airline officials say alcohol is to blame for most of the problems but say that in an era of cut-throat competition it would be commercial suicide to cut back on serving drinks.

"Airlines customers require the airline to provide drink as part of the service. That same customer requires a restaurant in any part of the world to do the same," said

Brothers. Hart fears the potential for trouble will be especially high in the run-up to the European soccer championships, due to be held in England from June 8-30, which will attract thousands of supporters from 14 countries.

"All the fans are coming to Britain and we can't do anything about the incidents which take place on foreign airlines," he said. British law does cover offences carried out on board British-registered planes, as Uruguayan busi-

nessman Carlos Hugo Almeida-Gutierrez discovered to his cost last year.

He was jailed for 14 days after indecently harassing three passengers on board a British Airways jet and then drunkenly trying to throttle a steward.

Last year Britannia Airways,

Britain's leading charter airline, successfully sued a passenger for the equivalent of NIS 80,000 after he forced a jet to make an emergency landing during a fight with his girlfriend.

But Britain is still out of step with the United States, Canada and Australia, all of which have laws allowing the prosecution of all in-flight offenders - some of whom will live forever in the annals of the bizarre.

US investment banker Gerard Finerman agreed to pay \$49,000 to United Airlines in February after assaulting a flight attendant and then defecating on a service trolley before using linen towels as toilet paper.

Last year a group of 18 British and Irish tourists were detained and then expelled after running amok aboard a Northwest Airlines flight from London to the US, attacking other passengers and hurling food at crew members.

Three US wrestlers had to help quell the troublemakers, who had sent their children to steal bottles of alcohol from service trolleys after being denied more drinks by the crew.

(Reuter)

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# Likudniks dive out of Sharm's way

THE WEEK THAT WAS  
MICHAL YUDELMAN

THE week stood in the shadow of the Peacemakers' Conference in Sharm e-Sheikh and the tremendous support and sympathy for Israel it expressed.

Anyone who was anybody was there, or on his way there. Nobody could talk about anything else - even CNN was swamped and gave over most of the opening day, without commercial breaks, to the event. After the horrors of the previous weeks, this political extravaganza was the only show in town.

Despite the presence of 14 Arab delegations, all the great-power leaders, and a media blitz, the Likud opted to treat this "new Middle East" event with scorn. Likud leaders piled up the epithets - a masquerade, a conference to save Peres's neck, a whitewashing exercise.

President Clinton (formerly Israel's greatest friend) suddenly became an "interferer" in Israel's internal affairs. MK Ariel Sharon said the conference would not save a single soul in Israel.

Louder than the noise came the silence of the Likud's leader, Benjamin Netanyahu. Strange indeed, mused members in the Knesset, since he is known as "Mr. Terrorism" himself - by virtue of a book of essays on the subject under his name and his past enthusiasm for concerted international action to fight terrorism.

It was even admitted in Metzudat Ze'ev that had Bibi been prime minister at such a critical time, he may have beaten Hosni Mubarak to initiating just such a conference.

Surely it couldn't be mere sour grapes?

If the conference was good for the State of Israel, then it must be good for the opposition, and the Likud should welcome it, columnist Tommy Lapid told Likud's former Washington ambassador Zalman Shoval on *Popolitika* Monday night.

Next morning, Netanyahu went on air with his first positive comment on the conference - leaving Likud colleagues to wipe egg off their faces. For the rest of the week, they clammed up like schoolboys reprimanded by the headmaster.



David Levy and Bibi Netanyahu: A bridge too far?

So are the Likud MKs who scorned the conference completely out of sync with their leader? Or just embarrassed? Unless, of course, it was a neatly planned routine - as in good cop, bad cop.

Another outbreak of sour grapes erupted in Jerusalem, at the presidential residence, no less. A peevish President Ezer Weizman decided there would be no "hello, haver" from him when Clinton arrived at Ben-Gurion Airport, because the reception ceremony wasn't being held in Jerusalem.

Next to succumb was Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert who ordered Jerusalem schools not to send children to greet Clinton in Tel Aviv. So was he too boycotting the president of the United States?

Of course not. As Olmert said, it was Clinton who was boycotting Jerusalem!

### DIGNIFIED DAN

One prominent Likudnik who pointedly refused to condemn the anti-terrorism conference was MK Dan Meridor, when he appeared on Channel 2's televised confrontation with Foreign Minister Ehud Barak.

A stranger in these parts would have had difficulty guessing which of the two represented right or left.

Both were impeccably polite, attentive, open-minded, and as terribly reasonable to the limits expected of rising politicians.

On some issues - terrorism, for instance - Meridor seemed even more dovish than Barak.

In previous elections, Meridor's moderate, liberal views and civilized demeanor earned him Likud scorn as a "leftist." Hate notices were circulated

against him, and he barely managed to squeeze into the party primaries' third group of 10.

But times have changed. Today, as Likud strains for more center ground on the political map, "moderate" is no longer a dirty word. Meridor has metamorphosed into a Likud darling, anointed by surveys as one of the party's three most popular Knesset candidates.

Propelled by moderator Dan Shilon, Meridor launched an acid attack on Shimon Peres, yet could not find a good word to say about his own leader, Bibi. Instead, he saved his praise for the Likud's "leading team."

Barak, by contrast, had no hesitation in warmly praising Peres, but somehow couldn't bring himself to commend his colleagues in Labor's "leading team."

It was no surprise that the two civilized gentlemen scored a tie in most

aspects of the polled confrontation.

### THE LIKUD STRIKES BACK

Domestically the Sharm conference may have been Labor's show, but Likud managed to stage the dramatic climax of the Likud-Tsomet-Gesher soap opera the day before the conference opened.

Television cameras zoomed in on yet one more historic Middle East handshake - that of Bibi and David Levy after three years of bitter marital strife that eventually ended in a brief divorce.

Since that day when Levy stormed out of Likud he has not exchanged one word with Bibi, though he has recorded some words about him - "empty vessel," "a man whose moral scale is base and dangerous," someone who "shoots from the hip." Bibi, à la Levy, was also the worst

thing ever to happen to the Likud, a leader without direction for alternative policies.

Bibi's "compliments" to Levy have been equally caustic. Many in Likud still fervently agree with both of them.

Likud MKs are still reeling from Netanyahu's union with Tsomet and Gesher which has wiped 14 of them off the Knesset list to seat Levy and Rafal stooges. The next Likud faction in the Knesset will have few authentic Likudniks.

Nobody dared raise a squeak at the exorbitant price Bibi paid to clear Levy and Rafal off his path to the premiership. But the Likud's four "princes" - Meridor, Benny Begin, Ehud Olmert and Uzi Landau - were pointedly absent from the shake-and-mix-up ceremony.

For consolation, Likud MKs are still smacking their lips in anticipation of watching Levy promote his former employer as the best possible man to be prime minister.

### BRIDGE UNDER TROUBLED WATER

Gurgling in the rapids were left the sinking artists, authors, Sephardi working-class idealists, and other planks of David Levy's collapsed Gesher ("Bridge") party.

These headless chickens gathered to try setting up another social movement, New Israel, to salvage the ideology cynically dumped by Levy for the enlightened philosophy of self-interest.

Dozens of Gesher activists, led by 50-year-old intellectuals of Sephardi origin, condemned Levy as a traitor to those who had believed in him and to the hopes he had cynically aroused in voters seeking a different kind of leader.

Many believe Levy had his campaign for Likud mapped out all along, and Gesher was one of those false military structures built only to confuse the enemy (Bibi) and force him to capitulate.

"If I were Levy, I would be ashamed to show my face in public," said Professor Rafaele Byelsky Ben-Hur, one of Gesher's more prominent activists.

"His political career is through. He will never regain his integrity after betraying those who took him as a symbol of decency, integrity and responsibility."

## Bill goes bonkers over bagels

GRAPEVINE  
GREER FAY CASHMAN

WHAT does US President Bill Clinton like for breakfast? Believe it or not, cinnamon-raisin bagels. The Laromme Hotel, which "US Secretary of State Warren Christopher" initiated as home away from home for high-ranking US government officials, this week placed a special order with Bonkers, the American-style bagelry operated by Reuven Kahane and David Cohen, who generally cater to American students.

Christopher prefers carrot muffins, for which the hotel also placed a special order with the same firm. When last in Jerusalem a few weeks ago, Christopher sampled Bonkers' chocolate-chip and cinnamon-apple muffins. Whipping up Bob Dole's favorite flavor may still be premature.

WHILE CLINTON stayed at the Laromme, the 200-member White House press corps was posted across town at the Jerusalem Renaissance Hotel, where the ballroom was turned into a communications center with 200 direct telephone and fax lines.

plus individual broadcast booths. In addition, arrangements were made to provide food and beverages around the clock. It just happened that hotel banqueting manager Lenny Davidman is abroad, "but we managed to get everything done anyway," said public relations manager Iki Mula. The ballroom became available when Yad Sarah, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary, decided in view of the recent terrorist attacks, to postpone its gala dinner. The venue has also changed, and will probably be the Laromme.

WHEN A leadership delegation representing the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, followed up on its annual mission to Israel with a visit to Qatar, participants took food and a Torah scroll from Israel. Neither chairman Leon Levynor executive vice chairman Malcolm Hoenlein had put in any special requests to the hotel, but someone had obviously tipped off

the management of the Sheraton Doha about the basics of kashrut. At its own initiative, the hotel supplied new grocery and flatware for its Jewish guests. The delegation met with the emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, and Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jasssem bin Jabr al-Thani.

VISIBLY LESS yuppified than their Tel Aviv counterparts, some 100 younger business executives, bankers, lawyers, et al., representing a good chunk of the capital's economic muscle, convened at the Jerusalem International Convention Center (Binyanei Ha'uma) last Friday for the inauguration of the New Generation Jerusalem Economic Forum.

The overwhelming majority of the founding members were born after the establishment of the state, entering a business world totally different from that of their parents. Some are second-, third- or even fourth-generation managers of

family businesses, which means that in addition to being young and upwardly mobile, they have the added advantage of old money. Danny Angel, CEO of Angel's Bakery and its nationwide restaurant subsidiary, and head of the senior Jerusalem Economic Forum founded in 1963, welcomed the infusion of new blood.

The New Generation JEF, in addition to providing opportunities for business networking, will also function as a social group and will organize group familiarization tours for members interested in making contacts abroad. Already on the books is an upcoming tour to London. Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, though ill, attended and disclosed that the city is at an advanced stage of negotiations with the Treasury and the Transport Ministry for the creation of an underground railway system.

New Generation initiators include Nadav Lisovsky, deputy manager of Bank Leumi's Jerusalem and southern region mortgage department; Yarou Klumche, manager of the Jerusalem branch of the Israel Manufacturers' Association; and Ya'acov Edri, deputy director of Moriah construction and roadworks. Latecomers found all the tables occupied and had to wait around until another table was set up for them. The exception was



The singer Rita puts a smile on the face of Keren Simantov, a victim of the recent terror attacks.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, whose seat was reserved.

A LITTLE knowledge can be frightening, as Reuven Hazan discovered. The Hebrew University political scientist had been invited to speak by the Joint Political Education Committee, founded by all the English-speaking immigrant associations to enlighten voters about the upcoming elections. Hazan disclosed to his audience something that was

both enlightening and frightening: neither politicians nor party functionaries really know how primaries work.

SPEAKING AT the World Association of Cooks' Societies press conference, Gideon Efrati general manager of the Jerusalem Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, which hosted the WACS Congress, observed, "We host different congresses every week, but this is the tastiest we've ever had."

PLAYING IT safe, Sigal Elimelech on Wednesday married Uri Malmilian, the former soccer star and one of the capital's most elusive bachelors. But she arrived at the Holiday Inn on Tuesday. She wanted to make sure that - even if some of the 1,000 invitees couldn't make it through the traffic restrictions imposed for the Clinton visit - the bride would definitely be on hand.

THE COMPERE of next Monday's Miss Israel contest is Gilat Ankori, who stars in *Ramat Aviv Gimmel*, the local soap revolving around the modeling industry. Given the fact that this is the industry best represented by the contestants, the choice could not have been more appropriate.

The winner, by the way, will not be crowned by her predecessor, but by Tel Aviv Mayor Roni Milioat at a gala event, the proceeds from which will go to Variety.

THOUGH HEARTENED by the visits of international dignitaries, many of the injured recuperating from the recent spate of terrorism perked up beyond mere politeness when entertainers showed up at hospital bedsides. For Keren Simantov, who will have quite a long wait before she is discharged from Hadassah-University Hospital, it was a dream come true when songstress Rita and husband composer/musician Rami Kleinstein came by to say hello. Simantov had never anticipated singing a duet with Rita - and in a hospital of all places. It was the best medicine she'd had all week.

THE ONLY Jewish journalist traveling with the press entourage of Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, Istanbul-born Susan Tarabius had a linguistic edge over her colleagues. A frequent visitor to Israel, Tarabius speaks fluent Hebrew. In addition to working for general publications, Tarabius edits *Shalom*, the only publication of the 25,000-member Turkish-Jewish community.

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1996

## Foreign debt falls as share of GDP

Jerusalem Post Staff

ISRAEL'S foreign debt in 1995 was \$19.8 billion, or 22 percent of Gross Domestic Product, a nominal increase of 1.7% in comparison with the previous year, but a decline of 3% in terms of its share of the GDP, according to the Bank of Israel's foreign exchange department's annual report.

The foreign debt decline as a share of the GDP, despite the lack of sharp fluctuations in the shekel's exchange rate, reflects the economy's real growth.

As for the debt's nominal growth, executives in the central bank attributed it to increased net liabilities of the non-financial private sector, whose commercial credit expanded last year by \$1.2b. and totaled \$6.5b.

Loans taken by other borrowers, primarily the government, grew last year by \$800m., most of which was raised in US capital markets, where \$500m. was raised with US loan guarantees and \$250m. in the debt markets.

As of the end of 1995, the state had borrowed \$4.9b. backed by US guarantees. That leaves another \$5.1b. in the guarantee framework, which was sanctioned by the Bush administration shortly after Rabin rose to power in 1992.

## Supplementary kibbutz debt deal ready for signing

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE kibbutzim, the banks, and the Treasury plan to sign the supplementary arrangement for kibbutz debt on Tuesday, following decisions by the United Kibbutz Movement and Hakibbutz Ha'arzi to support a draft agreement which was hammered out this week.

The large banks and kibbutzim's negotiating committees have agreed on most of the issues which prevented the signing of the agreement, in which the government and the banks have pledged significant amounts to erase additional kibbutz debts, which in recent years have threatened some kibbutzim with insolvency.

Sources close to the negotiations said several last-minute technical problems remain, but in all likelihood will be worked out by Sunday.

The UKM emphasized that approval of the debt arrangement plan is supported by its secretariat and management, but remains subject to the approval of move-

ment headquarters.

Zvi Beo-Moshe, UKM secretary, said that after the joint committees reach a final agreement, each party will have one month to receive the relevant authorities' approval.

In the meantime, the Procaccia Report, which alleges banks overcharged the kibbutzim for loans, will be presented to the Hakibbutz Ha'arzi and the Settlement Headquarters today. The report is not expected to delay the signing of the debt arrangement.

Ben-Moshe said the arrangement includes a clause which gives outlying kibbutzim 10 months-14 months to verify their debts, while kibbutzim in the center of the country will be granted an even longer period. The UKM emphasized it will assist kibbutzim interested in checking their debt. According to the proposal, the banks and kibbutzim will have no claims against each other after they sign the deal.

The proposed arrangement does not place any conditions on the number of kibbutzim that will take part in the arrangement. The banks forecast about 75 percent of the kibbutzim will join during the next few months.

According to the UKM, outlying kibbutzim, which have accumulated the highest debts, are expected to be the first to sign the arrangement.

Sources close to the sale of Bank Hapoalim, said the signing of the agreement is expected to push forward its sale to the Claridge-Arisson group. MI Holdings, the government company in charge of the sale, and the Claridge-Arisson consortium has negotiated the purchase of a controlling share in the bank over the last few months. But, the delay in signing the debt arrangement has prevented the buyers from evaluating the financial affect of the arrangement on Hapoalim. Bank Hapoalim's share in the kibbutz debt is estimated at 60%.

## WORLD BRIEFS

**Danish toymaker wants more Legolands:** Danish toy giant Lego said yesterday it would like to build versions of its Legoland theme park throughout the world, but contrary to media reports said it had no firm plans beyond two already announced. "The British park at Windsor will open on March 29 and a second park is due to open in San Diego, California in 1999. Beyond that we have hopes but no plans," a spokeswoman said. *Reuters*

**Daewoo to invest \$80m. in Warsaw plant:** Daewoo will invest \$80 million this year in its newly founded joint-venture Daewoo FSO Motor Ltd, that will assemble up to 40,000 compact and subcompact cars this year, a deputy industry minister said. "The company will manufacture between 30,000 and 40,000 Tico and Espero cars at its Warsaw plant this year with Daewoo investing in the same time about \$80 million," Deputy Industry Minister Tadeusz Soroka said. Daewoo made a commitment to invest a total of \$1,121b. in the following seven years, he added. *Reuters*

**Readers Digest cuts 100 jobs:** Reader's Digest said yesterday it will cut 100 jobs at its Westchester County, NY headquarters as part of a downsizing announced in late January. The layoffs will affect editors, researchers, assistants, supervisors, secretaries and others, director of public relations Craig Lowder said. The cuts at the company's headquarters in Pleasantville, NY, are part of 1,000 worldwide layoffs announced earlier this year. *Reuters*

## Vote on IEC request delayed

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee postponed a vote yesterday on the Israel Electric Corporation's request for NIS 1.6 billion in state guarantees, saying it first wanted more information about the company's financial plans.

The IEC asked for the guarantees, because it cannot get any more loans from local banks without them, due to restrictions on how much they are allowed to lend to a single borrower.

In total, the company plans investments of some NIS 3.9 billion this year, of which NIS 550 million will be borrowed from foreign banks and NIS 1.75 billion will be raised via bond issues. The remaining NIS 1.6b. is slated to be borrowed from Israeli banks.

## Polgat suffers NIS 18m. annual loss

COMPANY RESULTS

GALIT LIPKIS BECK and RACHEL NEIMAN

POLGAT, a subsidiary of Clal Israel, completed 1995 with a net loss of NIS 18.4 million, compared with a net profit of NIS 23.7m. in 1994.

The loss was mainly due to the closing of the Ouman knitwear factory in Ofakim in December, after many years of successive losses. The closing of the factory led to a one-time loss of NIS 15.6m., which increased the

at the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

In the reported period, sales increased to NIS 564.3m. compared with NIS 537.2m., up 5 percent. The growth was primarily due to higher sales on the domestic market.

Cost of sales grew to NIS 435.6m. from NIS 394.9m. Management said the rise reflects the company's attempts to increase its share of local and international markets, including its entrance into France.

Financing expenses increased to NIS 13.8m. compared with NIS 10.2m. last year.

Machteshim has announced that net profits last year rose 19.5 percent over 1994, from NIS 64.9 million to NIS 77.6m. Consolidated annual revenues were NIS 1.4b., up from NIS 1.22b. Earnings per share were NIS 1.34, up from NIS 1.13.

Fourth quarter net profits fell to NIS 842,000 from NIS 3.4m. in 1994. Quarterly revenues were NIS 91.7m., down from NIS 92.6m.

The company reported annual revenue of NIS 683.22m. from NIS 616m.

Exports to North America made up 28% of the Machteshim group's total annual sales; Europe made up 39%, Latin America 19%, the Far East 9%, and Africa and Australia 5%.

General manager Shlomo Unis said the growth in annual sales has contributed to increased sales costs of NIS 189m. from NIS 154.9m.

He also cited external influences on profitability, including a rise in the dollar cost of raw materials and a rise in labor costs, resulting from a gap in the dollar exchange rate and CPI.

The Machteshim group consists of Agau Chemicals and subsidiaries abroad.

**TURKISH President Suleyman Demirel visited the Israel Aircraft Industries yesterday to demonstrate his support for the relationship that has been blossoming between both countries' aircraft industries since the summer.**

In August, the Turkish Ministry of Defense and IAI signed a \$600 million, five-year agreement for IAI to upgrade 54 Turkish Phantoms based on the IAF's Phantom 2000 combat aircraft.

During the first-ever visit of a Turkish president to IAI, Demirel said he hopes this agreement is just the beginning of joint projects between the two countries. Highlighting the changes in the political atmosphere in the region, Demirel said the agreement signals a new stage in the relationship between Turkey and Israel.

## China attacks US for 'double standard' on wheat

BEIJING (Reuters) - China yesterday attacked the US Department of Agriculture's grain quarantine policy as hegemonic and said it revealed double standards in the import and export of fungus-infected wheat.

About 2.1 million tons of US wheat purchased by China, the world's biggest wheat importer, has yet to be shipped, because of a US outbreak of kernel bunt fungus.

The pending shipments are among \$120 million of US wheat exporters have been unable to ship abroad since discovery last week of infected wheat seeds, US officials said.

Officials of China's Foreign Trade Ministry, quoted by Xinhua news agency, said controversy over the stalled shipments revealed "double standards" in US policy toward China.

On December 20, the unidentified officials said, 23 members of Congress from five wheat-growing states lobbied Washington about concerns over kernel bunt in Mexican wheat.

"The US government decided as a result to postpone its importation of wheat from Mexico," the ministry said.

That case clashed, it said, with US policy toward China, which has long refused to accept shipments of US wheat tainted with the fungus TCK, or tillaria controversa kuhn.

On December 12, the ministry said, 30 members of Congress from wheat states wrote to China's leaders criticizing its TCK quarantine as "unscientific."

China rebuked Washington for citing the TCK quarantine as grounds to place China on a "Super 301 watch list" under the US Trade Act, the first step toward punishing a country for erecting unfair trade barriers.

Calling the US policy "hegemonic," the Trade Ministry said: "This act by the United States should be condemned."

TCK has dogged bilateral ties since the 1970s when China began importing US wheat.

It flared in 1995 during a row over still stalled China's bid to join the World Trade Organization.

"Taking the refusal of China [to import TCK wheat] as one technical barrier affecting bilateral trade, the US began to relate the dispute with China's... entry to the WTO, coercing China to make a 'political decision,'" the ministry said.

"Frustrated by China's hard stance, the US side has altered its tactics since last year, labeling the TCK dispute 'a political issue' instead of a 'technical problem,'" it said.

It said Washington initially refused to admit that some US wheat was infected with TCK and, once it did, began insisting that "TCK infection was not harmful."

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French franc	4.2881	4.7439	4.81
Japanese yen (100)	0.0075	0.0173	0.08
Swiss franc	2.9057	2.9577	3.00
British pound	1.8554	1.8896	1.82
Spanish peseta	2.5739	2.6215	2.58
Israeli shekel	0.4527	0.4801	0.44
Israeli shekel (100)	0.4771	0.4859	0.46
Israeli shekel (100)	0.2387	0.5474	0.58
Israeli shekel (100)	0.8871	0.8778	0.88
Israeli shekel (100)	2.2291	2.2753	2.20
Australian dollar	2.3778	2.4182	2.33
S. African rand	0.7825	0.7932	0.70
Belgian franc (Fg)	1.0154	1.0288	0.99
Australian dollar (A\$)	2.9807	3.0085	2.90
Italian lire (1000)	1.9512	1.9827	1.91
Japanese yen (100)	—	—	4.27
Japanese yen (100)	—	—	4.58
Japanese yen (100)	—	—	0.87
ECU	3.8502	3.9123	—
Irish punt	4.8148	4.8825	4.73
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4785	2.5185	2.45

\* These rates vary according to bank. \*\* Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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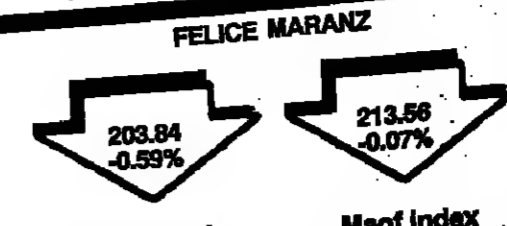
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Lower earnings push TASE down

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



STOCK indexes fell during the week amid concern that company earnings reports will reveal lower than expected profits.

Yesterday, shares were little changed as investors waited for February's consumer price index, due to be released today.

At that rate, the Bank of Israel is not expected to announce lower interest rates, Meir said.

The Maof Index fell 0.07% to 213.56 and the Two-Sided Index fell 0.05% to 203.84.

Of 992 issues traded yesterday, three shares rose for every two that fell.

The investment firm Salomon Brothers released a report appraising the Tel Aviv Stock Ex-

change as "a strong long-term investment opportunity." "In the near term - up to the May elections - we expect little improvement in the market, given high real interest rates and political uncertainty, despite generally excellent 1995 company earnings results," Salomon's said.

Companies with falling prices after announcing disappointing results included Clal Electronic Industries, which fell 1.25%.

Other declining shares on the Maof Index included Koor, which fell 0.25% as NIS 6m worth of shares changed hands.

"It seems Koor will have lower profits," Meir said.

Elbit fell 1.25%. Also declining were Bank Leumi and Bank Hapoalim, both fell 1.25%.

On the Two-Sided Index, Israeli Discount Bank, which began trading this week, fell 1%.

UK shares end higher following NY's opening

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON - UK shares ended higher, lifted by a firmer start on Wall Street, steady bonds, upbeat corporate news and renewed bid speculation.

Friday's expansion of stock option and futures contracts in both the UK and the US, the FTSE 100 index finished 41.5 points up at 3,681.8.

FRANKFURT - German shares close house trade practically unchanged, with trade in a tight range.

HONG KONG - Hong Kong stocks closed sharply higher on a late bout of bargain hunting after recent hefty losses on jitters over the Taiwan situation.

PARIS - French shares ended higher after a see-saw day on a firmer Wall Street after fresh US data, traders said there had been little appetite to take fresh positions after recent volatility.

ZURICH - Swiss shares ended firmer in active trade but slightly below the day's early highs.

JOHANNESBURG - South African shares ended a quiet day mixed, with industrials retracing earlier gains to end marginally softer in futures-related trade and golds up on a weaker Rand.

SYDNEY - The Australian share market ended just higher having spent the day whipsawing around square in tandem with a gyrating March SPI futures contract.

AFRICAN shares ended a quiet day mixed, with industrials retracing earlier gains to end marginally softer in futures-related trade and golds up on a weaker Rand.

Blue chips end higher, boosted by good news

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks ended with double-digit gains yesterday as a drop in wholesale prices in February reassured Wall Street that inflation was still in check.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average closed up 17.34 points at 5,586.06 after late profit-taking sparked a retreat from a high of 5,629.77.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

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CROSS-RATES





# Thousands riot at Cyprus priest's trial

NICOSIA (Reuters) - Thousands of stone-throwing demonstrators fought pitched battles with Cypriot police yesterday outside the archbishop's palace in Nicosia during a synod trial of a priest suspended on immorality charges.

More than 70 people were injured as police in riot gear fired tear gas to stop about 3,000 supporters of Archbishop Pangerios Meraclis from approaching the palace, which had been cordoned off with barbed wire.

A hospital spokeswoman said 74 people - civilians and police - had been brought in for treatment. Most were suffering from burning eyes from the tear gas, but some had head injuries from stones. Six were kept in for further treatment.

Eight demonstrators, four of them high-school students, were arrested.

Police said security has been tightened around Archbishop Pangerios Meraclis after receiving anonymous tips that there were plans to harm him.

"Police received information of a threat against the Archbishop," deputy police chief Panicos Hadjilovizou said at a news con-

ference. "It was [an] anonymous [tip] but it is being investigated."

Chrysostomos, 69, has been strongly criticized by supporters of the suspended cleric, 39-year-old Meraclis, whom he has threatened to defrock if the charges of homosexuality against Meraclis are verified.

Inside the palace, the island's bishops convened a second meeting against Meraclis, whose supporters threaten a revolt in the Greek Orthodox Church of Cyprus.

The meeting ended without a verdict. Two of three witnesses originally expected to attend did not appear. A taxi driver and a massage parlor owner testified against Meraclis on Monday.

Meraclis, who was smuggled out of the palace through a back door at the end of the one-hour meeting, was handed a "charge sheet" in which he has five days in answer in writing, one of his supporters said.

He did not give details of the charges, but said the bishops would issue their verdict after they receive answers. The holy synod announced Meraclis did not admit to the charges.

Crowds waiting for Meraclis to emerge were furious when they

heard he had been taken out via a back exit.

Many of them pulled away the barbed wire separating them from police officers.

"These are the last days... they are listening to adulterers and sinners instead of a holy man," said Antigone Markidou, a Meraclis supporter. "Look at the way they are trying to control the crowd."

Demonstrators screamed abuse at Chrysostomos when he appeared at a window on the first floor of the palace.

"Tammis [nickname for the Archbishop] you are the Antichrist, an adulterer," they shouted.

In several instances, police wearing masks and helmets were seen throwing objects at demonstrators. Tear gas was fired into narrow one-way alleys from which the crowds could not escape.

Meraclis, who returned last week from self-exile in Greece, was elected by a large majority in the northwestern Morphou district to be his new bishop.

The government and the island's parliament, the House of Representatives, appealed for calm.

# Russia attacks rebel base

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian troops and Chechen rebels exchanged mortar and automatic rifle fire in the center of the regional capital Grozny yesterday, and Russia launched air raids against a major separatist stronghold.

The clashes in Grozny took place as Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev visited the city to study the situation first-hand ahead of a meeting in the Kremlin today of the policy making Security Council.

The council, made up of top state and security officials, is due to consider a peace initiative which could be crucial for Presi-

dent Boris Yeltsin's chances of winning a June 16 presidential election.

Yeltsin is trailing Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov in opinion polls. The 15-month Chechnya conflict, in which more than 25,000 people have been killed, is widely regarded as his greatest handicap in the election race.

Interfax news agency, reporting from Grozny, said rebels were continuing to resist Russian interior ministry troops and pro-Moscow Chechen militia.

"There has been some stabilization, but the situation in the

Chechen capital remains difficult," said Yuri Plugin, deputy interior minister of the Moscow-backed Chechen administration.

He told Interfax that snipers loyal to separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev remained active in Grozny more than a week after infiltrating the city and holding parts of it for up to four days.

Inter-Tass news agency said the rebels had opened fire on a Russian military checkpoint in Minutka Square from a nearby apartment block.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Two construction workers had

been killed by rebel fire in Minutka Square in the last 24 hours, Interfax said. Two Russian soldiers were killed in other incidents.

Minutka Square was the scene of fierce clashes between Russian troops and separatists in early 1995 when Moscow's troops captured Grozny, and again last week when the rebels launched their biggest counter-offensive since the war started.

The rebels mostly withdrew from Grozny over the weekend. Russia then turned its attention and its firepower on the western settlement of Bamut.

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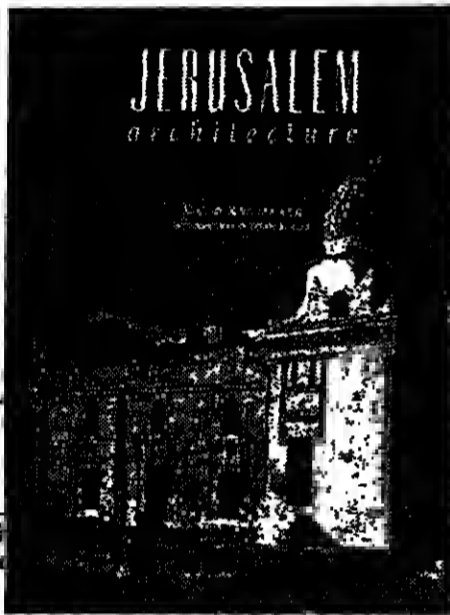
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# IDF blows up Engineer's house

JON IMMANUEL

A FLASH, an explosion, and the house of Yihye ("The Engineer") Ayyash, the chemical engineering student who introduced Israel to the suicide bus bomber, came crashing down in a puff of smoke yesterday.

Ayyash's parents' nearby home was untouched by the carefully calibrated blast, which used 16 kilograms of explosives about the same amount used in the last bomb attacks carried out in his name.

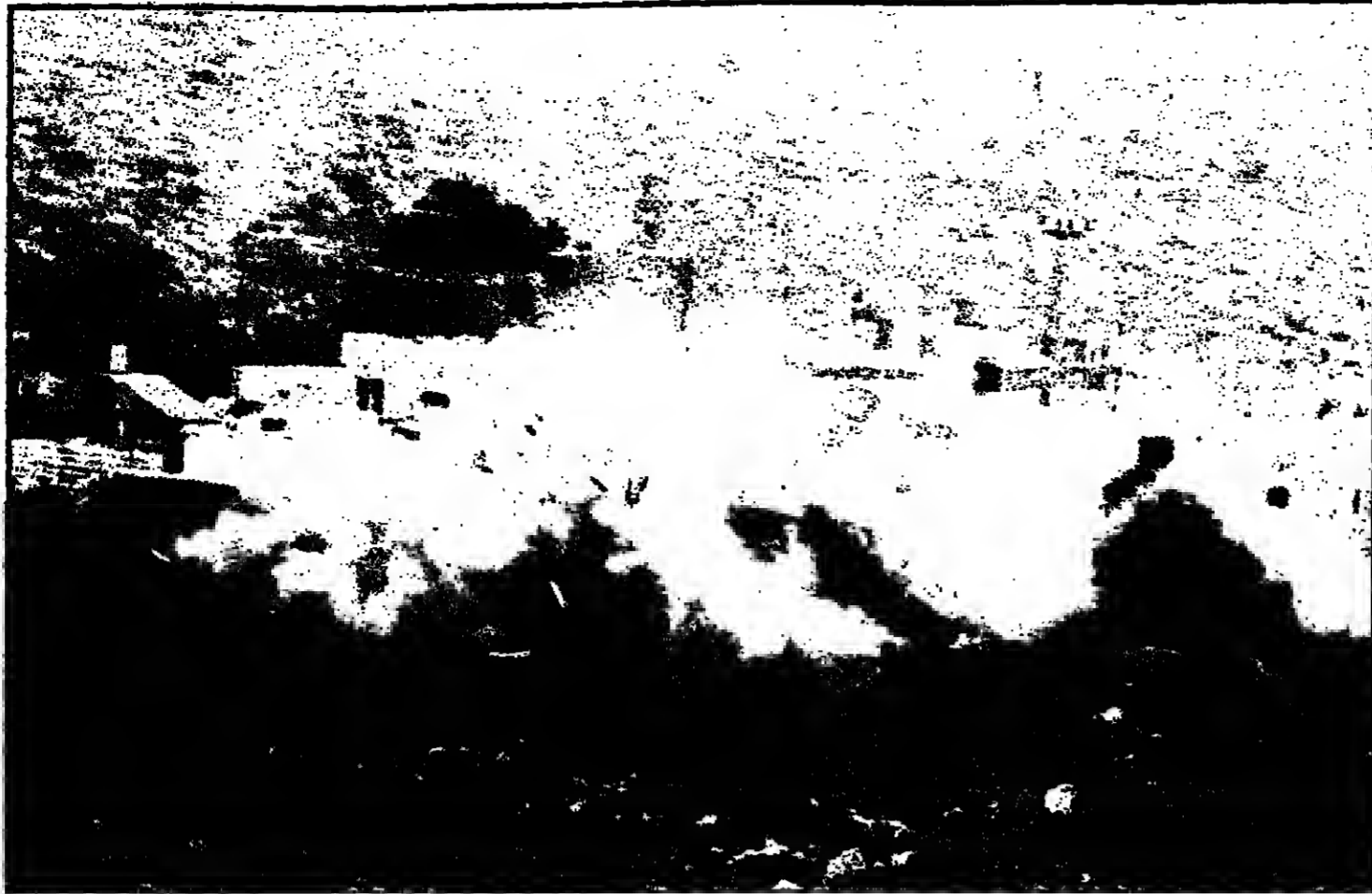
A smaller blast of four kilograms completed the job, ensuring that the ruins would not pose a danger to neighbors. A dove in a nearby tree was killed by the first blast and lay bloodied in the ruins.

Col. Haim, the area commander who supervised the demolition, said nobody would be able to rebuild on the site without a permit from the civil administration.

The explosion was delayed to ensure that it caused no damage to neighboring homes. This precaution followed an explosion on Monday demolishing the Burka home of the March 3 Jerusalem bus bomber, a blast which damaged more than 20 homes and almost destroyed one.

The families are to receive compensation. However, no thought was given to using a bulldozer instead.

"Blowing up a house has a greater psychological deterrent effect. When you feel the ground tremble under your feet you think



Using a total of 16 kilograms of explosives, the IDF blows up Yihye Ayyash's home in Rafat yesterday.

(Chaled Ziger)

about it a long time," a military source said.

Ayyash built his house next to his parents' home in the village of Rafat, close to the Samaritan bloc of settlements. He lived in it with

his wife and child before fleeing from Israeli troops.

He was a fugitive for three years, during which he fired on military patrols, set roadside bombs, and achieved notoriety by

making the bombs used in attacks, beginning with the one in Afula in March 1994. He is also responsible for those used in the Hadera and Tel Aviv explosions later that year, which killed more than 30.

Ayyash was killed in Gaza on January 5 by a remote-controlled bomb concealed in a mobile phone. The death of The Engineer, who was also famous for his skill at evading the IDF, caused an out-

pouring of anger and grief among Palestinians. It was one of the reasons given for the four bombings between February 25 and March 4, which killed 58.

The deterrent created by demolishing Ayyash's house may be limited, as he long ago passed on his sinister craft to successors, who call themselves "the disciples of Yihye Ayyash."

Rafat village, close to settlements and the Green Line, nestles in a landscape of low green hills, a far cry from the Gaza refugee camps, where Hamas ideology first flourished.

Haim said Rafat is "a moderate village with no special leaning to Hamas. Ayyash was an exception."

Today his picture is displayed at many houses in the village. Slogans praising Izzadin Kassam, Hamas's armed wing, are on the walls.

"That started only after he was killed," Haim said.

Villagers were placed under curfew for several hours, but there was little protest beforehand.

"They expected it," he said. House demolitions, derived from pre-state British emergency regulations, were reinstated last week as part of the government's anti-terrorism offensive. They had been abandoned when the peace process began.

There was no connection between the decision to destroy the house and US President Bill Clinton's visit yesterday. The demolition crew had simply been awaiting a High Court ruling, Haim said.

### WEATHER

Haifa	13-21
Tiberias	12-22
Afula	9-22
Samaritan	9-17
Tel Aviv	12-21
Jerusalem	10-17
Beer Sheva	13-25
Dead Sea	17-27

Forecast: Hot and hazy in the south and in the mountains.  
Shebait: Warmer than usual. Dry.

### AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HI	WIND	CLD
Amsterdam	04	08	SE 10	clear
Berlin	04	08	SE 10	clear
Bombay	24	30	SE 10	clear
Buenos Aires	18	22	SE 10	clear
Chicago	04	08	SE 10	clear
Copenhagen	04	08	SE 10	clear
Helsinki	04	08	SE 10	clear
Hong Kong	17	21	SE 10	clear
London	04	08	SE 10	clear
Los Angeles	04	08	SE 10	clear
Madrid	04	08	SE 10	clear
Moscow	04	08	SE 10	clear
New York	04	08	SE 10	clear
Paris	04	08	SE 10	clear
Rome	04	08	SE 10	clear
Tokyo	04	08	SE 10	clear
Warsaw	04	08	SE 10	clear
Zurich	04	08	SE 10	clear

## Egged chairman freed on bail in bribery scam

RAINE MARCUS

EGGED chairman Shlomo Levine, who was arrested on Wednesday in connection with a massive bribe scam, was released on NIS 250,000 bail yesterday by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court Judge George Kara.

Shlomo Amar, Egged's chairman from 1980 to 1984, whom police said also played a part in the scam which involved receiving bribes from the Mercedes importer in return for buying buses from the company, was also released for the same amount of bail.

Both were barred from leaving the country. On Wednesday, Yisrael Stockman, managing director of Karmobil, which imports Mercedes, and former senior Egged official Eli Yaffe were also released on bail by Kara, after he slammed police for launching the investigation four years after they were told about the scam by Yaffe.

Levine and Amar are suspected, together with other Egged senior officials, of receiving millions of shekels in bribes. Police said the money was deposited in Swiss bank accounts. The transactions, involving hundreds of Mercedes buses, were allegedly conducted

during the 1980s.

Egged spokesman Ron Ratner said that the cooperative's management "expressed its full faith in Shlomo Levine. We also trust the police to investigate fully and to reach the truth of the matter quickly. Egged will assist the police as much as necessary."

"We have questions as to why this case has surfaced at this specific time, only a week before the cooperative's elections for its chairman. This apparently stems from internal parties acting for reasons not necessarily in good faith. The timing is not coincidental."

Police described Levine's involvement "as massive and very active," and said he was more involved than other suspects questioned.

Levine's lawyer, Kenneth Mann, said his client is innocent and said the police brought him to court "simply for a media spectacle."

Amar, said police, also allegedly received bribes from the Mercedes dealer. His lawyer described his arrest as unnecessary, since if his client had wanted to flee the country he could have done so years ago.

## Fund manager under house arrest

TEL AVIV Magistrate's Court yesterday freed Shimon Zisser, 46, managing director of Eurotrade, a portfolio management firm, who is suspected of fraudulent stock trading, bribery and breach of trust, on NIS 300,000 bail. He was also ordered held under house arrest for eight days.

Zisser, while in his previous position as deputy managing director of Emda, Bank Mizrahi's portfolio management firm, is suspected of opening numerous bank accounts in the names of friends and relatives and using them to play the stock market. However, as an officer of a company which is a member of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, he was forbidden to do so.

He is also suspected of using insider information to enrich himself by coordinating his personal market activity with that of his company.

Securities and Exchange Authority official Reuven Kovnat told the court that a partial investigation has so far revealed some 50 bank accounts which Zisser operated under other names. In more than 20 cases, stocks held by those accounts were sold, then bought by Emda. This kept the price from dropping, as would have been the case had Emda sold the shares. (Ilim)

## General strike set for Sunday over new pension plan

A 24-HOUR general strike has been called for Sunday in response to the government's new pension plan, which the unions' action committee charges will harm the pension benefits of veteran workers.

Among other sanctions if the strike takes place, the Airports Authority announced there will be no takeoffs or landings at the country's airports (except for emergencies) and high school teachers will not report for work.

Severe disruptions in public transportation are expected as Egged's 4,000 hired workers, approximately half of its work force, will also strike.

At a meeting yesterday, the unions concluded that the Treasury has no intention of

changing plans to reduce pension benefits for some 600,000 workers and decided to go forward with Sunday's strike.

However, union and Treasury representatives are to meet again today at the Treasury to continue negotiations. Union representatives are to meet again on Monday to decide upon further steps.

TAAS-Israel Industries, Israel Aircraft Industries, Zim, and the Dead Sea Works will be on total strike; the Nuclear Research Center, the Weizmann Institute, Haifa Chemicals, and Israel Oil Refineries will be on partial strike. There will be no fuel deliveries.

Bezeq will not install new phone lines or make repairs. (Ilim)

## American student held on suspicion of murder

Irwin Johnson, 25, an American student at Haifa University suspected of murdering another student, Ganit Tziman, 22, in his apartment, was remanded yesterday for 10 days by Haifa Magistrate's Court. The suspect did not appear in court until yesterday, as he was in Rambam Hospital recovering from an apparent suicide attempt. His lawyer said his client denies the murder, claiming that Tziman died in a tragic accident. (Ilim)

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